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Chickasaw Times

Vol. LII, No. 3 | Official publication of the Chickasaw Nation | www.chickasawtimes.net | March 2017

Upcoming Events

Stomp Dance Class
March 7, 6-8 p.m.
Chickasaw Community Center, Ada, Okla.
(580) 622-7159

Stomp Dance Class
March 9, 6-8 p.m.
Chickasaw Senior Center
Sulphur, Okla.
(580) 622-7159

Yaakni' Apiisachi' Hiking Day Camp
March 10, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Kullihoma
(580) 272-5456

Silk Painting Class
March 11, 10 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m.
ARTesian Gallery & Studios
Sulphur
(580) 272-7781

Youth Art Month Celebration
March 11, 9 a.m.-Noon
Chickasaw Community Center, Ada
(580) 272-5520

Yaakni' Apiisachi' Hiking Day Camp
March 13, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
March 15, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
March 16, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
March 17, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Kullihoma
(580) 272-5456

Three Sisters Celebration
March 13-18
Chickasaw Cultural Center
Sulphur
(580) 622-7130

National Learn about Butterflies Day
March 14
Chickasaw Cultural Center
Sulphur
(580) 622-7130

GOURDget Class
March 14, 6:30-8 p.m.
Arts & Humanities Building
Ada
(580) 272-7781

Chickasaw Youth Storytelling Workshop
March 14-15, 8:30 a.m.-Noon
Arts & Humanities Building
Ada
(580) 272-7781

Tellebration Concert
March 17, 6 p.m.
Arts & Humanities
Black Box Theatre, Ada
(580) 272-5520

GOURDget Class
March 21, 2-4 p.m.
ARTesian Gallery & Studios
Sulphur
(580) 272-7781

Stomp Dance Class
March 21, 6-8 p.m.
Chickasaw Community Center, Ada
(580) 622-7159

Stomp Dance Class
March 23, 6-8 p.m.
Chickasaw Senior Center
Sulphur
(580) 622-7159

Kite Flying
March 24-25, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Chickasaw White House
Milburn, Okla.
(580) 371-9835

Silk Painting Class
March 25, 10 a.m.-Noon and 1-3 p.m.
ARTesian Gallery & Studios
Sulphur
(580) 272-7781

Chickasaw Times Online

Nuturing our language

Rosetta Stone Chickasaw now available

Rosetta Stone Chickasaw is now available free to Chickasaw citizens and immediate family members worldwide. This new educational tool features custom content, enabling Chickasaw global citizens to be introduced to their heritage language.

Forty engaging lessons are included in the first edition of the program. The lessons incorporate video, audio and still images presented in Rosetta Stone's award-winning language learning software platform. Citizens are able to work through lessons at their own pace and learn conversational Chickasaw phrases that can be incorporated into daily life.

Citizens can sign up for Rosetta Stone Chickasaw by following these simple steps:

1. Complete a license application at www.Chickasaw.net/RosettaStone or www.Chickasaw-Language.com.

2. Once citizenship is verified, you will receive a welcome email.

3. Once you receive the email, follow the instructions to select your password.

4. Begin using Rosetta Stone Chickasaw at www.Chickasaw-Language.com.

This summer, vocabulary CD, DVD, with English and Chickasaw subtitles, and mobile app for Android/Apple devices are also expected to be available.

These lessons were developed in conjunction with native Chickasaw speakers. A total of 80 lessons will be jointly created by Rosetta Stone and fluent speakers from the Chickasaw Nation. Currently, there are less than 50 fluent speakers of the Chickasaw language.

"It is essential to revitalize our Chickasaw language and preserve it for future generations because so much of our culture is bound up in the knowledge of our language," Governor Bill Anoatubby said. "We believe a collaboration between our fluent speakers and Rosetta Stone will be a significant step toward ensuring our language is documented and accessible for future generations. This relationship with Rosetta Stone offers an excellent opportunity for meaningful growth in our language programs."

Rosetta Stone Custom Solutions partners experts from Rosetta Stone with organizations and businesses around the world to help address language barriers and determine specific language-learning goals. The team then designs and delivers fully-customized programs with personalized content, training, tutoring and evaluation tools developed to achieve its partner's specific language objectives.

"Language preservation is a critical component of perpetuating the Chickasaw Nation's heritage for generations to come, and we're proud to work with them in creating this program," Global President of Rosetta Stone's Enterprise & Education Division Judy Verses said. "The Chickasaw Nation is helping put a spotlight on the importance of educating its people and preserving its heritage. We are excited to collaborate with them on what we see as a mission to reverse the tide of indigenous language extinction."

For more information, visit Chickasaw.net/RosettaStone or ChickasawLanguage.com.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dallas Rudd, Public Affairs.

ECU president honored

Gov. Bill Anoatubby presented a coveted "Friend of the Chickasaws" award Feb. 16 to East Central (OK) University President John R. Hargrave. "President Hargrave's commitment has manifested into many lasting symbols that pay tribute to our friendship," Gov. Anoatubby said. President Hargrave, who has led the university since 2009, retired March 1.

Casting calls upcoming for new movie production 'The Chickasaw Rancher'

ADA, Okla. – Native actors can try out soon for a number of spots in the upcoming Chickasaw-produced feature film "The Chickasaw Rancher."

Inspired by the life of Chickasaw cattle rancher and entrepreneur Montford T. Johnson, the movie is being planned by Chickasaw Nation Productions.

The Western plains of Indian Territory were home to one of the most colorful personalities

SEE **RANCHER,** PAGE 12

Apply now for Toksali SMART

Applications for Toksali SMART, the summer youth employment program, will be accepted **March 1 to 31.** This year, applicants can submit their applications and supporting documents online at www.Chickasaw.net/ToksaliSMART.

The Toksali SMART program is a valuable experience for youth ages 14 to 21. The program invites all Native American youth who live within the Chickasaw Nation to apply.

Students who participate are encouraged to develop productive work patterns and behaviors in real-world environments through innovative partnerships with a variety of community resources.

Experiences may include job shadowing, mentoring, leadership opportunities and job training. Worksites are both within the Chickasaw Nation and local communities. Participants can earn up to $2,000 while attaining work experience, community service opportunities, cultural education and leadership development.

Training sessions include topics such as: Chickasaw Nation core values, Chickasaw language, financial literacy, wellness, nutrition, customer service, higher education resources, academic assistance, tutoring, assistance with job placement and, character and leadership development.

For more information, visit www.Chickasaw.net/ToksaliSMART.

'Butterfly Day' March 14

Monarch project celebrated at Cultural Center

Preservation target
A monarch butterfly searches for nectar in a chaste tree blossom on the Chickasaw Cultural Center campus.

SULPHUR, Okla. – Monarch butterfly experts plan a full day of educational and informational delights March 14 at the Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur.

March 14 is "National Butterfly Day." It occurs during the Chickasaw Nation's annual "Three Sisters Celebration," which runs March 13-18. The Three Sisters – corn, squash and beans – were traditionally planted together, each sustaining the other. The plants were used for centuries by Chickasaws to nourish tribal members and were stored in preparation of winter.

The Chickasaw Nation has dedicated itself to preserving the monarch butterfly. The beautiful creature's population numbers have declined dramatically in the last 20 years. Special activities include:

· 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Butterfly booth/exhibit will be set up with several giveaways and make-and-take crafts by the butterfly garden, located just outside of the tribe's traditional village on the Cultural Center campus.

· 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. "Pollination Games on the Plaza" (education outreach to learn about butterflies) to be in the plaza in front of Chikasha Poya Exhibit Hall.

· 2 p.m. - Anoli Theater – Lecture, "The Monarch Butterfly and Its Amazing Journey!" by Thalia Miller and Rhonda Sellers.

·1 p.m. and 3 p.m. – Anoli Theater – Film, "Flight of the Butterflies."

The Chickasaw Nation is responding to what has been described by experts as an emergency. America's monarch butterfly, a favorite of North Americans, is starving and disappearing, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture experts, who say unless U.S. citizens act now, monarchs

SEE **MONARCH,** PAGE 2

Top flight violinist

Chickasaw musician traces success to Arts Academy

Accomplished
Chickasaw violinist Katie Barrick performs at Oklahoma City University.

OKLAHOMA CITY – Inside Katie Barrick's heart, a war rages between a refined classical violinist and an undisciplined, improvisational fiddler.

As a violinist, Ms. Barrick's instrument gives voice to a disciplined composer's work – each note painstakingly printed on sheet music and performed exactly as the composer intended.

As a fiddler, Ms. Barrick composes instantaneously by following music in her head and heart. In this less restrictive genre, sheet music is as scarce as an electric guitar at a bluegrass festival. The rallying cry in this setting is "play what you feel!"

Her coach, mentor and now colleague, Chickasaw classical composer Jerod Tate, calls such talent "composing in the moment."

Both Ms. Barrick and Mr. Tate are Chickasaw. Both are professional musicians and composers. While their commonalities are vast, a singular event crafted a career for one and enriched the life of both.

The Chickasaw Arts Academy Summer Session impacts lives.

REACHING OUT

Katie Barrick may well be one of the Academy's greatest success stories, according to Mr. Tate, who is working with the Spokane Orchestra's string quartet for an April 30 performance, "Visions of Native Voices."

The Washington state quartet will play several compositions by Chickasaw Academy youth participants.

SEE **MUSICIAN,** PAGE 2

MONARCH | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

may not exist beyond 2020.

More than 90 percent of North America's native grassland was once covered with milkweed and other nectar plants, a perfect butterfly ecosystem. Now, a large portion of these grasslands have been converted into agricultural use or building development. In addition, insect-killing pesticides claim thousands of butterflies annually. New grasslands with milkweeds and nectar plants need to be cultivated immediately, USDA agriculturalists say, if these creatures are to survive.

The Chickasaw Nation has responded by planting milkweed and nectar plants throughout its 13-county territory in Oklahoma, particularly at Cultural Center.

The 184-acre campus, which lies a few miles east of Interstate 35, is in the monarch migration flyway through Oklahoma. The butterfly journeys from Mexico to Canada each spring and reverses the trip each autumn. Monarchs must lay their eggs on milkweed plants because their offspring emerge as caterpillars and feed on milkweed leaves. The caterpillars then spin themselves into cocoons and come out a few weeks later as brilliant orange, black and white butterflies.

Chickasaw Nation horticulture director Thalia Miller oversaw the planting of milkweed, fruit trees and nectar-producing plants at the Cultural Center.

"While the milkweed plant is very important, the nectar plants are also," Ms. Miller said. "As soon as the butterflies emerge from their chrysalis and have feasted on milkweed leaves, they begin hunting for nectar. For that reason, we have filled our garden with plants that produce large amounts of nectar, such as Coreopsis, Solidago, Monardo and Echinacea."

Ms. Miller and her team planted two large gardens at the Cultural Center, in addition to milkweed plots and nectar-rich feeding grounds throughout the nation's boundaries.

"The key is to stagger plantings so blooms occur at different times in spring, summer and fall," Chickasaw Nation ecological resource coordinator Rhonda Sellers said. "By doing this, plants will be blooming in the garden at all times."

The tribe has also constructed a "hoop" greenhouse near the Cultural Center's traditional village that offers a controlled enclosure for growing plants year-round. There is even a way for monarchs to enter and depart the structure safely.

The Cultural Center sponsors a monarch butterfly day each spring and autumn, featuring hands-on educational activities for teaching monarch-saving actions, special guest speakers and fun-filled learning experiences.

The Chickasaw Nation and other Oklahoma tribes have partnered with Monarch Watch, a University of Kansas program that coordinates species-rescuing efforts.

Chip Taylor, a former University of Kansas professor who leads Monarch Watch, said, "The tribes are ideal partners who strongly value respect for the land. No other place in the country offers this type of opportunity in dealing with large landowners."

CONTRIBUTED BY Tom Bailey, Public Affairs and Gene Lehmann, Media Relations.

MUSICIAN | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

One of the selections – "Caffeine Smile" – was composed by Ms. Barrick when she was only 16.

"I am thrilled, excited, fascinated and upbeat the quartet chose to perform 'Caffeine Smile,'" Ms. Barrick said. "It is an honor and so humbling as well."

The Spokane quartet will close out its 2017 concert season with American Indian-inspired music. In addition to Ms. Barrick's composition, three other compositions by Chickasaw Arts Academy students will be performed. They include "Concerto for Strings" by John McAlister; "Circus Revolution" by Miko Begaye; and "Holhchifo Ki'yo" (No Name) by Dylan Bennett.

For more than a decade, Mr. Tate has steered Chickasaw youth along the musical pathway. The Emmy-winning composer believes the Academy is a tour de force to be emulated by others in both Indian Country and America.

The Academy, he said, illustrated the Chickasaw Nation's dedication to the arts and to its talented youth.

"I think the Academy is awesome and every American Indian tribe should strive to sponsor one," Mr. Tate said. "'Caffeine Smile' is Katie's second composition. It is wonderfully composed and the four instruments bring to life a homage to her bluegrass upbringing."

But "Caffeine Smile" is not Katie's most complicated piece of music.

"She thrived at the Academy," Mr. Tate said. "She applied what she learned, experimented and followed suggestions on where 'Caffeine Smile' could go musically and expressively. Each instrument, violin, second violin, viola and cello, are all doing something completely different from the melody. But when it all comes together, wow! True compositional counterpoint.

"And, I want to be crystal clear. As a teacher and coach, I never write one note of their music. Compositions are entirely composed by the students. Entirely! They deserve all the credit."

ME AND MY FIDDLE

Ms. Barrick is 23. She is education coordinator for the Oklahoma City Philharmonic and the Oklahoma City Orchestra League. She has been in the job a little more than a year since graduating from Oklahoma City University with a bachelor's degree in music business.

She is an accomplished violinist. She is also a talented fiddler. She has played since age three when her grandfather, Jack Barrick, placed a tiny instrument in her hands and arranged for lessons.

Before auditioning for her first foray into Academy instruction, Ms. Barrick was playing in a Mead-area country music band, attending bluegrass festivals and competing in fiddle contests. Her father, Roland, ferried her to contests. Her mom, Melissa and grandmother, Katherine, cheered on her efforts.

"My senior year of high school, I knew if I wanted to pursue music in college I would have to perform classical music," Ms. Barrick said. "I worked really hard to beef up my classical chops to audition for the music program. I managed to do well enough to be accepted by OCU's orchestra. I completely switched gears to classical music from fiddling.

"By the time I graduated, I had a foot in the classical world and a foot in the fiddling world. But I play fiddle every chance I get."

She is a featured instrumentalist on "Spirit of a Nation," a tune written by Chickasaws to highlight the theme of the tribe's Annual Meeting and Festival celebrated each October. Ms. Barrick was an OCU freshman when she contributed to the work.

TATE'S GUIDING HAND

As an impressionable 15-year-old, Ms. Barrick was "star-struck" by Mr. Tate.

"He was the highly successful, hard-core classical composer we would see on television," she said.

When introduced, Mr. Tate struck the young musician as "warm. He was cool and easygoing."

When he inquired if she read music, Ms. Barrick was horrified. She told the composer she played by ear but possessed rudimentary reading skills.

"He just said, 'Okay. Cool. Great,'" Ms. Barrick recalled. "I did not expect that at all. I didn't expect an accomplished classical composer to say it was okay I did not read music very well."

Mr. Tate devoted an hour of individual composition instruction to Chickasaw youth each day. Together, student and instructor would discuss what could happen musically, perhaps what should happen, and how voices of four instruments could meld into exhilarating music – compositions that stir audiences emotionally.

"I had the melody of 'Caffeine Smile' floating around in my head and I played it for him (Tate)," Ms. Barrick said.

She described the composition as "happy, energetic and positive." Mr. Tate suggested how the other instruments could act as a foundation while playing musical structures different from the melody, thus enriching the composition with varying rhythms and harmonies. Ms. Barrick wrote music for each instrument. For days, "Caffeine Smile" consumed her every waking moment.

"It was so much fun," she said. "It was written as a fun song, light-hearted and airy. I did not comprehend at the time what doors of opportunity were opened for me through the Arts Academy. Jerod was my teacher and mentor. Now, we are close friends and colleagues in this wonderful world of music. My tribe opened this door and then helped me through college. I graduated debt-free from OCU. And, my tribe supports the arts. It partners with the OKC Philharmonic and continues to sustain me as a citizen and a professional in the arts field. It is significant.

"Jerod Tate opened so many doors for me artistically and then professionally as I began my career," she said. "Without the Chickasaw Arts Academy, Jerod and my tribe, I wouldn't be in this great profession."

About Chickasaw Summer Arts Academy

The Chickasaw Summer Arts Academy is a two-week exploration into the world of fine arts for students ages 8-18.

The 2017 Academy is set July 10-22 on the campus of East Central University in Ada, Okla. Hosted by Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities, students are taught a range of disciplines including vocal music, theatre, theatre technology, dance, creative writing, visual arts in 2-D and 3-D, music composition, photography, textile design, cultural arts and video production. For more information, call Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities, at (580) 272-5520.

CONTRIBUTED BY Gene Lehmann, Media Relations.

Arts Academy seeks instructors

The search for Chickasaw Arts Academy instructors is now under way. Instructors representing the Chickasaw Nation, southeastern tribes, other Native American tribes and non-Natives are encouraged to apply by March 18.

The 2017 Chickasaw Arts Academy summer session is a two-week exploration into the worlds of visual and performing arts.

The Academy is hosted by the Chickasaw Nation July 10 – 22 on the campus of East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma. An Art Walk, Friday, July 21, and a student showcase, Saturday, July 22, allow the students to exhibit their work.

Students accepted into the academy will experience disciplines of study, including, but not limited to, vocal music, theatre, technical theatre, dance (ballet, contemporary, lyrical, jazz, tap, hip-hop, etc.); visual arts in 2-D and 3-D, graphic design, instrumental music, photography, fashion design, video production and makeup/special effects.

All art professionals are encouraged to apply and submit a letter of interest to include area of expertise, desired teaching level (8-10, 11-13 or 14-18), brief description of training and experience, short description of your suggested curriculum contents and estimated budget and resumé. Providing work examples is highly recommended.

Applications may be sent to Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities Division, ATTN: Chickasaw Arts Academy – summer session, P.O. Box 1548, Ada, OK 74821 or fax to (580) 272-5525.

Those who meet the criteria will be sent a formal application and additional information. Email the arts academy team at ArtsAcadamy@chickasaw.net

UPCOMING EVENTS | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

South Pacific Performance
March 25, 7 p.m., Murray State College, Tishomingo, Okla.
(580) 272-5520

Painting Wrap
March 31
ARTesian Gallery & Studios
Sulphur
(580) 272-7781

Kite Flying
March 31 - April 1, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Chickasaw White House
Milburn, Okla.
(580) 371-9835

Stomp Dance Class
March 28, 6-8 p.m.
Chickasaw Community Center
Ardmore, Okla.
(580) 622-7159

Children's Fair
April 1, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Agriplex, Ada
(580) 421-8734

South Pacific Performance
April 1, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Goddard Center, Ardmore
(580) 272-5520

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All editorials and letters will become the property of the Chickasaw Times. Editorials must be signed by the author and include the author's address.
Deadline for submission is the 15th of each month prior to publication. Submissions can be mailed, faxed, hand-delivered or e-mailed.

Roots of Chickasaw renaissance began at Seeley Chapel

GOV. BILL ANOATUBBY

Governor, The Chickasaw Nation

In Chickasaw history, the late 1950s and early 1960s marked a time of renewed energy and inspiration among Chickasaw people. This was the time when our tribe was emerging to rediscover itself following decades of universal hardship.

That important time of awakening featured Chickasaws' historic gatherings at Seeley Chapel. The unique dynamics of that time marked the dawn of a new and progressive era for the Chickasaw Nation.

Seeley Chapel is an Indian Methodist church near Connerville, Okla., in the heart of the Chickasaw Nation. The little church proved to be "ground zero" during this critically important period of resurrection for the Chickasaw Nation.

During the early 1960s, our tribe, along with hundreds of others, was just emerging after decades of brutal federal Indian policy. But there was a feeling of great optimism at Seeley Chapel. In October 1963, Overton James had been appointed Governor of the Chickasaw Nation by President John F. Kennedy. Gov. James would be elected in 1971 by the Chickasaw people in our first election since 1904.

Speaker of the U.S. House Carl Albert, of tiny Bugtussle, Okla., visited with us at Seeley Chapel. Speaker Albert understood pulling oneself up by the bootstraps. He was an early and ardent supporter of the Chickasaw Nation and of tribal sovereignty.

We gathered at Seeley Chapel to discuss the news and to hear the reports from our tribal administration on the state of the Chickasaw Nation. We shared ideas and dreams. Everyone appeared united in the fact that our tribe was definitely on the right path.

Of course, we were just taking our first steps along this new journey. Our entire tribal budget was very small and virtually all of it was federal funds. The enormity of the challenge became clear to almost everyone. There were very limited resources available and the tribe was charged with providing an extensive menu of important services.

For many Chickasaws during those days, it was a daily struggle to provide the necessities of life. It became obvious we would have to come together and forge a plan that would provide for our people, and move toward making our big dreams turn into reality.

In 1987, we had made some progress with the plan. However, we knew there remained much work ahead of us.

Assistance from the federal government was not going to be the long-term answer to our needs. We would do what Chickasaws of the past had done – we would come up with a good, workable strategy and execute that strategy. We were going to build our own businesses, and develop our own means of support.

We had our share of challenges, and we had to make adjustments along the way. However, we stayed the course together and discovered the path that would support the programs and services so important to the people.

We are now engaged in a wide variety of tribal businesses. And we have found success! That success is the foundation that provides the resources for most of the important programs and services which Chickasaws receive every day.

In education, health care, cultural outreach, family life, careers and so much more, we are leaders. We can be proud that the Chickasaw Nation is recognized as one of the most innovative, successful sovereigns in the country.

Those Seeley Chapel gatherings planted seeds of progress for the Chickasaw Nation. Chickasaws intuitively understand struggle. And Chickasaws understand how to hurdle obstacles that block the path of shared prosperity.

We know there is still much work ahead, and we are committed to excellence for all Chickasaw people. The awakening that occurred decades ago at Seeley Chapel is ongoing. Those first steps along the path have led us to become a powerful and dynamic tribe. The lesson we learned along the way is "people matter." Dedication to the Chickasaw people is the bedrock on which all our successes are built.

Annual Children's Fair April 1 in Ada

ADA, Okla. - The 16th Annual Children's Fair is set for Saturday, April 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Pontotoc County Agriplex in Ada.

This free, community event recognizes Child Abuse Prevention Month. In 2015, an estimated 1,670 children died from abuse and neglect in the U.S. Children's advocacy centers around the country served more than 311,000 child victims of abuse.

National child abuse statistics for 2015:

· Approximately 683,000 children were victims of abuse and neglect (unique instances).

· 2.4 million children received preventative services from child protective services agencies.

· Children younger than one year had the highest rate of victimization, 24.2 per 1,000 children.

· Of the children who experienced maltreatment or abuse, more than 75 percent suffered neglect. More than 17 percent suffered physical abuse, and almost 10 percent suffered sexual abuse.

· More than 78 percent of reported child fatalities as a result of abuse and neglect were caused by one or more of the child victim's parents.

This information can be found on the National Children's Alliance website at www.nationalchildrensalliance.org.

The Children's Fair will offer information regarding child abuse and neglect prevention, community organizations' information and various activities for children and families.

There will be rides, games, food, a petting farm, community helpers (fire, police, etc.) and entertainment.

For more information regarding the fair, contact Deanna Carpitche at (580) 310-7993 or deanna.carpitche@chickasaw.net. To reserve a booth at this year's fair, complete the booth form at www.chickasaw.net.

CONTRIBUTED BY Taylor Owen, Public Affairs.

Easter Celebration April 8

SULPHUR, Okla. - The Chickasaw Cultural Center will host an Easter Celebration, Saturday, April 8. Activities begin at 10 a.m. The Easter egg hunt starts at 1 p.m.

Join the Easter Egg Hunt, meet the Easter Bunny and enjoy a variety of holiday-themed activities.

Other free festivities include games, stomp dancing, cultural demonstrations and family-friendly films.

For more information, visit www.chickasawculturalcenter.com.

In observance of Easter, the Chickasaw Cultural Center will be closed, Friday, April 14, and Sunday, April 16.

'Stomp Out Sexual Assault' walk April 8

ADA, Okla. - The Chickasaw Nation will host the Stomp Out Sexual Assault Awareness Walk Saturday, April 8 at Wintersmith Park in Ada from 11 a.m. through 2 p.m.

This event is free and open to the public. Lunch and t-shirts will be given out while supplies last.

The Chickasaw Martial Arts Program will offer tips and demonstrate defensive tactics.

Rape or sexual assault can happen to anyone, woman or man, and it is never the victim's fault. There is no absolute way to prevent sexual assault, but it helps to think about ways to stay safe.

TIPS:

· Listen to your instincts. If something seems "wrong," listen to yourself and be self-aware.

· Park your vehicle in well-lighted parking places at night.

· Lock your doors.

· Don't leave with a stranger.

· Keep an eye on your beverage to make sure nobody puts something in it.

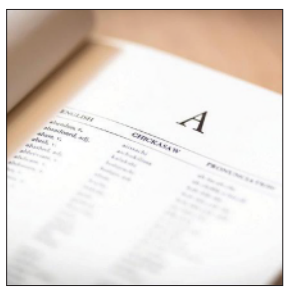
· Tell friends and family where you are going and how long you will be there. Stay in contact with family and friends.

Eighty percent of the time, victims know the person who assaults them. Always exercise caution.

For more information about sexual assault or the Stomp Out Sexual Assault Awareness Walk, contact the Chickasaw Nation Violence Prevention Services at (580) 272-5580. To reserve a booth at this year's fair, complete a booth form at www.chickasaw.net.

CONTRIBUTED BY Taylor Owen, Public Affairs.

Genealogy Day March 11



Spend National Genealogy Day at the Chickasaw Cultural Center. The event is set for 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, March 11.

Visitors can engage in an interview process emphasizing the importance of storytelling and passing information onto future generations. Listen as elders tell stories of Chickasaw history and play trivia games inside The Holisso: The Center for Study of Chickasaw History and Culture.

For more information, visit www.chickasawculturalcenter.com.

'Coffee & Careers' hiring event March 30

ADA, Okla. - Chickasaw citizens seeking careers with the Chickasaw Nation are invited to attend the "Coffee & Careers" hiring event noon through 5:30 p.m., Thursday, March 30 at the Carl Albert Service Center, 1001 N. Country Club Road in Ada.

Citizens can apply for a wide array of Chickasaw Nation positions, from entry level to management. Hiring managers will be on-site to meet with candidates, conduct interviews and answer questions.

Positions in education, health care, human resources, casino operations, information technology and more will be offered. Refreshments will be provided.

Citizens can also learn more about working with Chickasaw Nation recruiters who can assist them on their career path.

Candidates are asked to bring a driver's license, Social Security card and CDIB. Applications can be completed in advance online at chickasaw.net/careers.

For more information, contact Human Resources at (580) 436-7259.

Monthly Arts and Craft classes

The Chickasaw Nation has planned monthly community arts and crafts classes for locations across south-central and central Oklahoma throughout the year.

Class topics include Chickasaw language, finger weaving, stomp dancing, beading and painting. Upcoming classes are planned for Purcell, Pauls Valley, Oklahoma City and Ardmore.

See the complete list of dates and locations below:

Stomp Dance
Thursday, April 6
Purcell Area Office
Contact: Julie Underwood
(580) 622-7140

Language
Tuesday, May 2
Jet Stream Casino
Contact: Halley Taylor
(580) 272-2594

Beaded Collar
Thursday, June 22
Remington Park
Contact: Teresa Workman
(580) 272-5318

Beaded Bracelets
Tuesday, July 18
Ardmore Community Center
Contact: Tommie Postoak
(580) 371-9835

Language
Tuesday, Sept. 5
Oklahoma City Remington Park
Contact: Teresa Workman
(580) 272-5318

Beaded Collar
Thursday, Oct. 26
Jet Stream Casino
Contact: Halley Taylor
(580) 272-2594

Feather Painting
Thursday, Nov. 2
Purcell Area Office
Contact: Julie Underwood
(580) 622-7140

Finger Weaving
Thursday, Dec. 14
Ardmore Community Center
Contact: Tommie Postoak
(580) 371-9835

Annual Dynamic Women Conference set for April 27-28 at Artesian Hotel

SULPHUR, Okla. – The 2017 Dynamic Women of the Chickasaw Nation Conference is set for April 27-28 in the Artesian Hotel and Spa, Sulphur.

The conference will feature a keynote speech by suicide prevention advocate Shelby Rowe, the 2016 Dynamic Woman of the year.

Ms. Rowe is the manager of education and prevention programs for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Ms. Rowe has dedicated her career to fighting the prejudice and discrimination that affects those touched by suicide. She played a key role in the creation of the first Arkansas State Plan for Suicide Prevention, served on the board of the National Association of Crisis Center Directors and spearheaded the Arkansas Suicide Prevention initiative. As executive director of the Arkansas Crisis Center, she expanded the statewide crisis hotline chat services. She is also the former president of American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Arkansas Chapter.

Ms. Rowe earned bachelor's degrees in Sociology and Philosophy from Oklahoma State University and a Master's of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. She lives in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Established in 2006, the Dynamic Woman of the Year Award honors Chickasaw women who have made significant contributions to the nation, serve as role models to other Chickasaw women and who have made a difference in the lives of Chickasaws and other citizens, enriching their communities and society at large.

The conference is sponsored by Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities.

Registration forms are now available for conference.

To fill out a registration form visit, Chickasaw.net/DynamicWomen.

Deadline to register is March 31.

For more information, contact Arts & Humanities at (580) 272-5520.

Mobile health care app opens doors to success

Chickasaw student entrepreneur breaks through with innovation

LAUREN WELCH

Most college students have heard the word "entrepreneur." For 23-year-old Chickasaw Lauren Welch, a university senior, the word has become a way of life.

"Entrepreneur" is defined as "a person who organizes and operates a business…taking on greater than normal financial risks in order to do so."

For Ms. Welch, risk taking was mandatory to overcome obstacles life threw at her from an early age. She grew up in a single-parent household. Despite the hardships, and other challenges, she will soon be the first in her family to graduate from college.

Upon graduating from high school in Kyle, Texas, Ms. Welch knew she wanted to be successful. Years of national recession presented another hurdle.

"I graduated in 2012 and it was right after the recession," she said. "All these kids who were graduating from college weren't finding jobs. I figured, 'that's not going to be me.' I was gung-ho to be successful."

Her career logic was simplicity itself.

"Everyone has to breathe," she said. "This is going to be a good market for me to go into."

To that end, her first major at Texas State University was respiratory care.

She was going to school full-time and working at a hospital full-time. It was there she came to understand the universal impact of the business office in health care.

"I realized that people in the business office really made all the decisions for the providers and for the patients," she said.

It was then she decided to change her major to business.

"I felt like I could help more patients from that field than just one patient at a time," she said.

With a change of majors came a change in schools, to St. Edwards University in Austin, Texas.

There she met her eventual business partner, Dr. Carlos Atore. Dr. Atore was a medical resident was from Kenya, Africa. He shared her frustration with today's costly and inefficient method of accessing patient records.

"(Dr. Atore) was telling me how terrible Kenya's health care system was," Ms. Welch said.

With only two doctors per 10,000 Kenyans, she said there was a big need "to figure out a way to streamline processes so more people are being helped."

Complicating things was a lack of reporting to the government because accurate feedback from Kenya's health care facilities was virtually nonexistent.

To remedy the problem, she designed a mobile application. With Dr. Atore's connections, it gained serious interest.

"We were able to get five clinics and a hospital to release a pilot of our mobile application," she said.

Their target markets for her innovation were developing nations, rural communities, disaster areas and Native American communities.

"This will be the first time a patient in these developing countries will be able to access their medical records in an instant," Ms. Welch said. "If it's a war-torn country and they have to go somewhere else, they'll have that digital health record in hand to show that provider. At that point it gives them power of their health care for once."

The innovative application could potentially be implemented anywhere, including America's health care system. The benefits of the system, Ms. Welch said, included "the patient being able to easily retrieve his medical history with one click, or being able to see what the doctor told him, or the doctor being able to prescribe modules or exercises or additional comments, and you're not relying on memory. You have it at your fingertips."

This idea got the attention of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. MIT conducts a "Global Entrepreneurship Bootcamp" in Brisbane, Australia. Those chosen must survive a highly selective competition. The organization was sufficiently impressed with Ms. Welch and her idea. She was invited to participate.

"It teaches leadership skills to run a successful business and it puts you in contact with angel investors, mentors and all of the MIT, MBA staff," Ms. Welch said. "You're basically getting a whole semester of the most intensive of classes in five days. It's the equivalent of a 40-hour course load in five days.

"Everyone who has gone says it's an opportunity of a lifetime. Everyone tells me it will change my life. I'm hoping it will change my life so I can change others' lives and carry on the vision of my company."

So far, she has raised $2,000 of the $6,000 price tag to attend. Those wishing to help can access www.gofundme.com/laurens-mit-tuition-fund?lang=en-US.

Ms. Welch's business plan earlier earned her a coveted co-working seat at Capital Factory, an Austin business incubator.

"Usually, companies have to pay to be there, but I won this through my school," she said.

Her future plans include moving to Boston.

"That's really where the health care-focused people are," Ms. Welch said. "I need to be around people who are passion-driven about health care. It may sound weird for me to say I want to change health care in a country, but that's really what I want to do."

CONTRIBUTED BY Lone' Beasley, Media Relations.

SATURDAY EVENING MOVIES
CHICKASAW
CULTURAL CENTER
ALL FILMS SHOWING
IN THE ANOLI' THEATER
SHOWS START AT 6:30 P.M.
MARCH 4
TROLLS (PG)
MARCH 11
STAR TREK BEYOND (PG-13)
MARCH 18
PETE'S DRAGON (PG)
MARCH 25
OLD YELLER (GENERAL AUDIENCES)
EXPERIENCE OUR NEW DIGITAL CINEMA PROJECTOR
FEATURING OVER 32 TRILLION COLORS!
$2 PER CHILD • $3 PER ADULT OR
$5 MOVIE DEAL: INCLUDES TICKET, POPCORN & DRINK
CHILDREN YOUNGER THAN 16 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN.
WWW.CHICKASAWCULTURALCENTER.COM

Parents make the critical difference

Johnson-O'Malley key to Indian student success

The Johnson O'Malley (JOM) program creates local connections. JOM students gain access to educational provisions that address the needs of Native American students preschool through high school.

Most JOM groups are parent-run. Parents have a voice in the education process of their children, including promotion of cultural education. JOM group activities are federally funded through the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

JOM groups within the Chickasaw Nation host stickball games, invite community members to traditional food nights and provide school supplies to students.

"Parent committees are looking for ways to have more parent and student involvement and to bring more cultural activities to their schools," Chickasaw Nation JOM Coordinator Julia Tyler said.

Parents can contact the JOM coordinators at their children's school or Indian education directors for more information about JOM parent committee meetings or JOM events for school-based programs.

"JOM groups want to see more parents involved with their programs and highly encourage Indian education involvement," Ms. Tyler said.

In addition to JOM, Indian education programs include opportunities available under Title VII. Services under Title VII target tutoring, literacy, career preparation, family enrichment, multicultural education, retention programs and more.

JOM and Title VII are both federal programs created by legislation passed to protect culture and to provide equality in educational environments. Programs are available in schools nationwide to serve Native American students.

The Cherokee Nation is hosting the Oklahoma JOM Conference April 10 and 11. The conference is open to the public and will take place at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Catoosa, Okla. The event is facilitated by an intertribal committee. The event will include workshops on language and culture curriculum, early childhood programs, special education, alternative education, student and parent rights, health and wellness, parent and community training and resources. Exemplary programs will be recognized at the banquet.

To register for attendance or apply to present at the conference, please contact Julia Tyler at (580) 421-7711 or Julia.Tyler@Chickasaw.net

CONTRIBUTED BY Jennifer Jones, Public Affairs.

Language classes set for Tuesday nights in Ada

The Chickasaw Nation Language Department is now offering community Chickasaw Language classes Tuesday nights from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the language offices located at 710 East 13th St., in Ada.

This month, classes will take place March 7, 14, 21 and 28.

These classes are free and open to the public. All skill levels are welcome to attend.

The value of speaking the language has been realized, and several programs and services have been established over the years to revitalize the Chickasaw language. To learn more about available programs and services, visit www.chickasaw.net/chickasaw-language.

For more information, contact Joann Ellis at (580) 436-9240 or joann.ellis@chickasaw.net.

Ada Senior Gift Shop offers new jewelry selection

ADA, Okla. - The Chickasaw Nation Senior Center Gift Shop in Ada has new jewelry for sale.

The gift shop offers a variety of types of Native American jewelry including necklaces and earrings created by Chickasaw artists.

The Ada Senior Center is at 1005 Chamber Loop Road in Ada. The gift shop is open 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For more information, contact the center at (580) 436-1007.

the Chickasaw Nation
Yaakni Apiisachi
Caretakers of the Land
One-day hike and outdoor learning experience
Sign Up Now!!
Ages 13-16
2017 dates are available in January, February, March, April and May.
Chickasaw Preference
For more information, contact
Chickasaw Nation Environmental Services
at (580) 272-5412.

Income tax prep available through April 13 at VITA

The Chickasaw Nation Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program will provide income tax preparation through April 13.

This program is free and open to qualifying individuals and families who earned less than $54,000 in 2016.

Participants must provide the following items:

· Two forms of ID
· Social Security card
· Photo ID
· Social Security card for any and all dependents on the tax return
· All W2s, 1099s, etc. (and any documents that pertain to completing a tax return)
· VOIDED check for direct deposit of any refund you may receive
· Copy of last year's tax return

Below is a list of upcoming dates and locations:

Chickasaw Nation Treasury Building, Ada
1- 5 p.m., Tuesday, March 7

Chickasaw Nation Area Office, Oklahoma City
9 a.m.-noon, Wednesday, March 8

Chickasaw Nation Treasury Building, Ada
1-5 p.m., Thursday, March 9 and Tuesday, March 21

Winstar Event Center, Thackerville
11 a.m.-6 p.m., Tuesday, March 21

Chickasaw Nation Community Center, Ardmore
10 a.m.-3 p.m., Wednesday, March 22

Chickasaw Nation Treasury Building, Ada
1-5 p.m., Thursday, March 23 and Tuesday, March 28

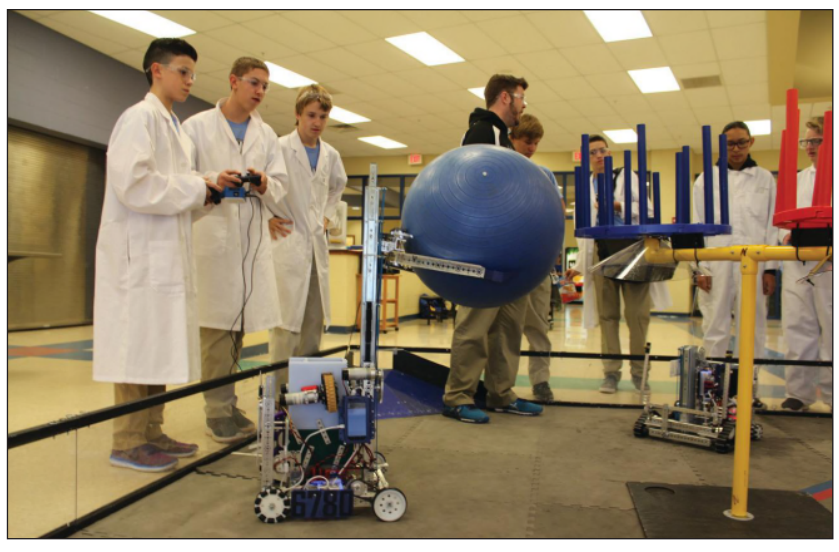
Riverwind Hotel, Norman
11 a.m.-7 p.m., Tuesday, March 28

Chickasaw Nation Treasury Building, Ada
1-5 p.m., Thursday, March 30

Chickasaw Nation Treasury Building, Ada
1-5 p.m., Tuesday, April 4; Thursday, April 6; Tuesday, April 11 and Thursday, April 13

For more information, contact the VITA program at (580) 272-5798 or vitaprogram@chickasaw.net.

CONTRIBUTED BY Taylor Owen, Public Affairs.



Chickasaw robotics teams hitting stride

At left, Y-Not Robots Drivers Landon Estes and Jacob Neill, Ryan Duncan, STEM teacher Clayton Edwards, Roy Duncan, Landon Swopes and Saije Hawkins practice maneuvering their robot to put the cap ball in the goal at the Newcastle Qualifier January 21. At right, the VEX IQ team brought home a trophy and winning check from the Feb. 11 state competition in Lawton.The Mechanical Masterminds won the Excellence Award and a spot in the VEX World Tournament taking place in April. From left are Clayton Edwards (staff), Raphael Padilla, Jordan Nichols, Kallie Chapman, Ryler Rich, Warren Birdshead, Tashina Wilson (staff) and Nathan Wright (staff). The Chickasaw Nation youth robotics teams come together to learn fundamentals of science, technology, engineering and mathematics on their way to STEM careers.

Meinders business school offering major scholarship

OKLAHOMA CITY – The Oklahoma City University Meinders School of Business offers Chickasaw students the opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree in business. The Native American Business Scholars Academy is now accepting applications. Scholarships are available for incoming freshmen.

Scholarship recipients are awarded full-time tuition funding for eight consecutive semesters.

Additional benefits include a variety of tribal business-focused seminars and workshops, internships, networking opportunities with local, regional and national business leaders and access to special on and off campus events.

Applications are due March 15, 2017.

Applicants must be Chickasaw citizens with cumulative grade point averages of 3.0 or higher, scores of 22 or higher on the ACT and meet Oklahoma City University admission requirements. Students must be in their final semesters of high school or have just graduated.

Students must maintain a full-time enrollment status and a GPA of 3.0 or higher while enrolled.

For more information, please contact Winter Bass (580) 421-7711, ext. 60088 or Winter.Bass@Chickasaw.net. Visit www.Chickasaw.net/highered to see more educational funding and scholarship opportunities and apply online.

Stomp dance classes open to everyone

Stomp Dance classes are open to everyone during March and April.

The Chickasaw Nation Cultural Resources Department invites all to the classes. Classes will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at two locations with dinner provided. Families are encouraged to join. Two hours of cultural credit is available for employees.

Classes are scheduled at: Ada Chickasaw Community Center, 700 N. Mississippi, Ada, March 7, 21; Ardmore Chickasaw Community Center, 907 Locust St., Ardmore, March 28, April 11; Sulphur Chickasaw Senior Center, 401 E. Oklahoma, Sulphur, March 9, 23, April 6.

For more information, or to register, call (580) 622-7159.

GOURDget classes offered in March

GOURDget classes taught by Chickasaw artist Dustin Mater are offered in March.

Classes will be: 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., Tuesday, March 14 in the Arts & Humanities building, 201 N. Broadway Ave., Ada; and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday, March 21 at the ARTesian Gallery & Studios, 100 W. Muskogee St., Sulphur.

Classes are free, and materials will be provided. Classes are limited to 10 people.

For more information, contact Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities at (580) 272-5520.

OK Business Week, June 4 - 8 at ECU

ADA, Okla. - East Central University (ECU) and the Chickasaw Nation offer an award-winning, one-of-a-kind summer program for students who have completed ninth through 12th grade.

Oklahoma Business Week is a total immersion experience for high school students who are motivated leaders by creative ideas.

Selected students learn about business operations, from product development to marketing, from business leaders in the community and showcase their skills at a trade market.

Executives and community leaders teach students professional business concepts in a variety of workshops.

Students compete to win scholarships, laptop computers and other prizes.

The camp is Sunday, June 4 through Thursday, June 8. Students will stay on the ECU campus. Meals and evening social activities are included.

Contact Angela Wrublewski at (580) 421-7711 or Angela.Wrublewski@Chickasaw.net to learn about scholarships or find out how to apply. Visit www.okbusweek.com to learn more about this opportunity.

CONTRIBUTED BY Jennifer Jones, Public Affairs.

Silk painting classes March 11, 25 at ARTesian Gallery & Studios

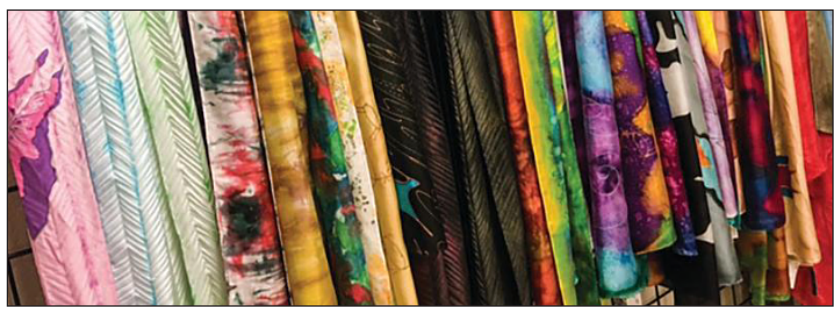
SULPHUR, Okla. - The ARTesian Gallery & Studios will host silk painting classes, March 11 and 25, at the ARTesian Gallery & Studios, 100 West Muskogee in Sulphur.

Classes are split into two sessions for different skill levels. The morning sessions, 10 a.m. to noon, will cover beginner's techniques. The afternoon sessions, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., will guide intermediate students.

Silk painting is the application of dyes artfully placed onto silk fabric using a fusion of contemporary original design concepts and traditional Native American motifs.

Classes will be taught by full-time studio artist, Patta Butcher. Ms. Butcher has been a professional artist for more than 30 years. She enjoys expressing her art using hand-painted silk, and has a background in fashion design, clothing and textiles.

For more information, contact the ARTesian Gallery & Studios at (580) 622-8040.



Chickasaw veteran spotlight

Korean War vet made the long road back from post-traumatic stress disorder

They found him walking down an Alaska road in frigid temperatures. When officials picked him up, 19-year-old Chickasaw and Korean War veteran Harley Norman couldn't tell them how he got to the road or where he was going. Nothing made sense to him. Life was coming only in bits and pieces.

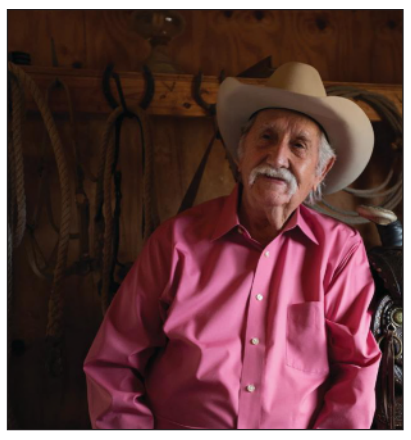
Sixty years later, Mr. Norman, of Ardmore, Okla., would be diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), a mental health condition that can develop after someone lives through a traumatic event. But in 1954, the world wasn't a place where anxiety disorders -especially those experienced by servicemen - were understood or openly discussed.

"In plain words, I felt like I was 'cracking up'," Mr. Norman said. "Sometimes, I can vaguely remember things from then. Sometimes, I can't remember at all. I was just in a fog after Korea."

Mr. Norman, now 83, joined the U.S. Navy following his 1952 high school graduation. At the time, the U.S. was embroiled in the Korean War, and Mr. Norman dreamed of being a hero like the World War II military men he idolized as a child.

He was soon mobilized to Korea. From boot camp, he was sent into the heart of the war off the coast of Korea. He was assigned the role of deckhand on an aircraft carrier. He slept in the bow of the ship, directly beneath the powerful hydraulics that launched screaming fighter jets into the sky.

"The noise was constant," Mr. Norman said. "You have to remember those jets were fairly



HARLEY NORMAN

new at the time. We had a lot of crashes. We had a lot of loose torpedoes and bombs that hadn't released from the planes. We had a lot of fires, and we were sitting on thousands of gallons of flight fuel and ammunition.

"I kept thinking about what could happen, and sometimes, those things did happen."

The close calls with fire and runaway bombs began to emotionally scar Mr. Norman.

When he was given the option to transfer after Korea, he requested a place he equated with cool tranquility - Alaska.

"I was ready to get out of Korea," he said. "I thought it would help."

But the change in location didn't take away his fears. He was devastated when feelings of disconnection, plus blackouts and horrifying nightmares, followed him north.

"The dreams, I can't describe them because I just don't know the words," Mr. Norman said. "But they are terrifying, and most of the time, there's a threat. I'm in a terrible situation, and there's just no way out.

"Sometimes, they take place on a ship, and sometimes, it's an entirely different situation. But they make you afraid of falling asleep."

The AWOL jaunt down an Alaska road while he was "half-awake" sealed Mr. Norman's fate. The Navy sent him to its base near Oakland, Calif., where he spent a few months in the hospital before receiving an honorable discharge.

He returned home to Oklahoma and began working sporadically as a cowhand. Still, a part of his mind remained at war in Korea.

"It's hard to explain," he said. "The feelings got worse over the next 15 years. I drove across country, stayed lost half the time. I worked in the oil fields. Basically, I started trading cattle and horses, and that was the main thing I wanted in life. That, and to marry my wife."

According to Mr. Norman, concern over being ridiculed or misunderstood kept him from discussing what he was experiencing with anyone else, including other veterans.

"I never sat down and talked to anybody because I was unsure of the reaction," he said. "I was a bit leery. Were they going to say, 'Who is this crazy person?' I didn't know."

While Mr. Norman was suffering from the effects of PTSD, the military and medical communities were struggling to understand it.

There were servicemen who reported having symptoms similar to Mr. Norman's during the American Revolution. Throughout the American Civil War, the military described extreme cases of "exhaustion" among soldiers on both sides. During World War I, there were references to "shell shock," and in World War II, there was "battle fatigue."

Yet it wasn't until 1980 that the American Psychiatric Association officially recognized PTSD as a certified mental health condition. That paved the way for additional research and treatment options.

Mr. Norman's own official diagnosis came another 30 years later, thanks to some prodding from an old Navy buddy who encouraged him to go to the Veterans Administration (VA) for help with his hearing loss.

"My friend had been having problems with his hearing, like I was having," Mr. Norman said. "The VA helped him, so I started thinking about it."

The final push Mr. Norman needed to approach the VA came in the form of a local bank teller, who said her young son-in-law, a military veteran, was suffering from PTSD and received help from the VA.

"What he was going through sounded familiar, and I thought, 'I've got nothing to lose at this point'," Mr. Norman said, "'so I might as well go see them."

After years of working through his problems on his own, Mr. Norman received care from both doctors and psychiatrists through the VA. In the end, he was diagnosed with four disabilities, all of which he had acquired before the age of 20, including PTSD.

Even with the diagnosis, Mr. Norman said, he never expects to be completely cured of the stress disorder. He continues to have nightmares, but he now knows why he is having them and that he is not alone.

He is also thankful that people treat him with respect when he opens up about the experiences he had while serving the country he loves. That's something he never expected.

"I lost my daddy before I was born and never had much guidance," he said. "But I am an American, and I did the best I could for America.

"Since the diagnosis, I've tried to look at myself and do better. I had a sour disposition and a dislike for a lot of things and a lot of people, and I guess I was bitter against the world because of what I was going through. I hope no young military person goes on like that. I hope they reach out to somebody and know they aren't the only ones."

Mr. Norman acknowledged that he has spent decades in the trenches of a foreign war, even while at home. He can now admit, he said, that he has done well with his life in spite of his struggles.

"I am proud of myself because it's been a hard road to travel," he said. "Uphill all the way, every day. But I managed to help raise two good boys, got a good grandchild, got a ranch, got all the stuff that goes with it. Plus, I'm Chickasaw, and we're darn good people.

"I'm doing good right now. I'm doing good."

Mr. Norman is featured this month in the 2017 Chickasaw Nation Calendar.

CONTRIBUTED BY Breanne Hill, Public Affairs.

Help on selected legal matters is available through OILS, LASO

Chokma! and greetings from David Woerz, Chairperson and Seat 1, Pickens District. As I talk with Chickasaw citizens throughout the year, I field a lot of questions about opportunities for Chickasaws to obtain legal assistance. This article conveys what information I have found.

Oklahoma Indian Legal Services (OILS) is an organization that is mostly federally-funded to provide legal assistance to low income Indians. OILS is especially helpful when it comes to estate planning and assistance with restricted Indian land. OILS can assist in clearing land titles for families who still own their ancestors' allotments that have restrictions against alienation, creating Durable Payable on Death deeds on land, creating simple wills for estate planning purposes and probating wills to clarify fractionalization of interests in land ownership. However, OILS does not assist with anything related to trust, i.e., land held in trust by the United States for the benefit of individual Indians.

DAVID WOERZ
Chairman, Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

OILS provides community education regarding these issues at "Wills Clinics" they hold with or without financial or other assistance of tribes and tribal entities. For example, OILS has held one or more Wills Clinics in conjunction with the Oklahoma City Chickasaw Community Council. I note the difference because if OILS financing is used, the criteria for "low income" is 125% of the local poverty levels. If tribal financing is used, the criteria is 200% of local poverty levels. OILS is planning to hold estate planning clinics in the near future.

The OILS representative I spoke with reminded me that individual Indians must take charge of their cases by contacting OILS for information or to request an application for services. The proper telephone number for OILS is 1-(800)-658-1497.

If you are a Chickasaw citizen living anywhere in Oklahoma, you are also eligible for services from the Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma (LASO), provided that you meet their income guidelines. LASO maintains offices throughout Oklahoma. LASO cannot help you if you have issues regarding restricted or trust land, but they do provide services in a number of areas such as housing, domestic violence or abuse, consumer issues and debt, senior issues or health issues, divorce and child custody. I suggest that you go to their web site www.legalaidok.org to learn of their available services, location of offices and contact numbers.

Please note that if you live within the 13-county Chickasaw Nation - the "territorial jurisdiction"- some of those same services (for examples divorce, child custody and support) are available to you at our Chickasaw District Court in Ada. Unfortunately, the Court cannot assist anyone with writing or probating wills and/or trusts. The numbers for the Court are (580) 235-0279 and toll free (800) 479-1459. The process is started by getting an appointment with a Court Advocate.

Thank you for your continued support and confidence. We are here for you. Please contact us through the addresses and phone numbers listed in this and every issue of the Chickasaw Times. You can also contact us at (580) 436-1460 to obtain our addresses and phone numbers.

David Woerz, Chairperson and Seat 1, Pickens District

Tribe offers programs to help you keep your home safe, beautiful

Chokma!

Greetings from the Tishomingo District!

March has arrived and with it, the first signs of spring.

As the days get longer, we look forward to outdoor activities and the renewal of spring brings - warmer weather and lush landscapes of flowers, grass and trees.

Unfortunately, as we saw right here in the Tishomingo district last year, spring weather can turn severe quickly. These storms can lead to devastating tornadoes, floods and other natural disasters; not only in Oklahoma but in all parts of the country.

TIM COLBERT
Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

It is during these times - when the weather's ability to damage homes and endanger lives - the storm shelter program's importance is highlighted.

We are fortunate our tribe is able to provide several programs to protect our safety.

Chickasaw Nation housing provides protection through programs such as the storm shelter program. More than 4,000 shelters have been installed since the program began just a few years ago.

The program is available to those who live inside, as well as those who live outside, the Chickasaw Nation boundaries.

Chickasaw homeowners who live in the tribal boundaries are eligible for a storm shelter installation at their homes.

Those Chickasaws who live outside the boundaries are eligible for a grant for the installation of a storm shelters.

Shelters can be provided on a one-time basis in order to meet the needs of all Chickasaws.

Several Chickasaws who were victims of the May 2016 tornado, which tore through the heart of the Tishomingo District, later credited their storm shelter for protecting their families' lives. Evidence this important program works.

Please call the housing department for more information at (580) 421-8800, or visit www.chickasaw.net/services/storm-shelter-program for more information and an application.

It is also the time of year the Chickasaw landscaping programs provide Chickasaw homeowners flora and fauna to create a yard with curb appeal.

Chickasaw Farms, located in the Tishomingo District, in Davis, Okla., provides initial landscaping packages and supplemental packages to Chickasaw homeowners.

In addition, Chickasaw Farms grows and harvests thousands of square-feet of sod to be used by Chickasaw homeowners.

For more information about the Landscaping program call (580) 235-7234 or visit www.Chickasaw.net.

As always, thank you for allowing me to serve as your representative on the Chickasaw legislature. It is a privilege and an honor to serve you.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Tim Colbert
Tim.Colbert@chickasaw.net
(580) 421-7242

Bryan County, Okla., Tempe, Arizona Chickasaws host connection meetings

Recently one of our beloved seniors, Mr. L.D. "Rastus" Love, stepped off this Earth and went to be with Jesus. Back in the day, Rastus and his wife Melba were fixtures at the Achille Center. Melba was the site manager there for several years and then transferred over to oversee the Panola Center when it first opened. Many a day, you could drop into the Achille Center and see Rastus there holding court! He greeted citizens with a smile and always had a joke or two to share. Such a neat man who had experienced many adventures in his lifetime. He was the son of Hercules Martin and Alice Myrtle (Stanford) Love. He shall be missed but not forgotten!

BETH ALEXANDER
Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Well, you missed it if you didn't attend the Bryan County Chickasaw Citizen Connection Meeting! We had a turnout! Mr. Mike Wingo with the Division of Housing was the guest speaker. He shared about the various programs offered by the Division of Housing for citizens residing within the Chickasaw Nation and for those citizens that utilize Services at Large. We had Chickasaws from various locations (even from Texas) in attendance! Make plans to attend the next meeting. For more information on Citizen Connection Meetings, call the community outreach office at (580) 332-1165. I hope to see you there!!

The Arizona Chickasaw Connection Meeting held a picnic in Tempe recently. It was nice to attend and visit with other Chickasaw citizens. They actually experienced rain that day! Something that doesn't happen very often! We must have brought it with us from Oklahoma! The attendees tried their hand at Twining. Twining is a durable weave used for matting, mantles, bags and skirts. Thank you to Angie Ott and others for hosting the picnic.

Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. I Peter 4:8

Beth Alexander
(580) 272-7850
Bethalexander22@hotmail.com

L.D. "Rastus" and Melba Love.

Serena Cravatt (standing), Angie Ott, left, and Karen Cravatt, right, prepare for the Arizona Chickasaw Community Council picnic.

Heritage Preservation, Education continue to be key areas of investment

FINANCIAL REPORT

The tribal government caption includes the tribe's general fund and BIA trust funds. The Chickasaw Businesses include all of the businesses and operations of the Department of Commerce. Not included in the financial statements are federally or state funded programs and/or grants and the financial statements of Bank 2 and Chickasaw Nation Industries, Inc.

The growing needs of the businesses are taken into account when determining the transfers from the businesses to the general fund. It is vital to the long range mission of the Chickasaw Nation that the businesses continue to grow and diversify.

Revenues of tribal government, other than the transfer from businesses, include motor fuel settlement funds and investment income. Chickasaw Business revenues include gaming revenues net of prizes and other sales revenues from convenience stores, travel plazas, tobacco stores, other tribal businesses as well as rental and investment income.

Tribal expenditures are classified by function. General government includes the maintenance and operations of tribal property, the Chickasaw Times and Governor's and Lt. Governor's offices. Expenditures for education include education scholarships as well as the tribe's division of education. Health expenditures include eye glasses, hearing aids, prescription drugs, wellness center, community health clinics, catastrophic medical assistance and other similar programs not covered by federal programs or grants.

The businesses' expenditures are classified as to expenses associated with gaming operation of the tribe and the other businesses of the tribe.

Executive Summary of the Financial Statements of the period ending January 31, 2017

Tribal Government

Revenues and transfers from the businesses for operations and fixed assets totaled $17.2 million for the month and $71.7 million year-to-date. Expenditures were $14.6 million for the month and $52.4 million year-to-date.

Chickasaw Businesses

Revenue net of gaming prizes through January totaled $449.6 million. Net income before the transfers to the Tribal Government was $83.1 million year-to-date. After transfers to the Tribal Government for capital projects and tribal program operations the net income was $17.6 million year-to-date. The net income includes all revenue, including amounts reserved for business growth and expansion.

Statement of Net Assets

At January 31, 2017, the tribal government funds had $402.3 million in cash and investments. Of this amount, $22.6 million is in the BIA Trust funds. This total does not include any federal program funds.

The businesses had $232.2 million in cash and investments which is reserved for accounts payable and business operations.

As of January 31, 2017, tribal operations, excluding federal program funding, had net assets of $2.26 billion.

Chickasaw Nation
Tribal Operations
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
For the Four Months Ended January 31, 2017

		Tribal Government	Chickasaw Businesses	Total
Revenues	$	6,150,208	449,623,859	455,774,067
Transfers From Businesses To Tribal Government		65,508,546	(65,508,546)	-
Total Funds Available		71,658,755	384,115,312	455,774,067
Expenditures				
General Government		2,525,067	-	2,525,067
Legislature		1,028,206	-	1,028,206
Judiciary		415,007	-	415,007
Education		9,011,318	-	9,011,318
Heritage Preservation		9,108,814	-	9,108,814
Health		6,083,963	-	6,083,963
Youth Services		2,070,790	-	2,070,790
Family Services		5,520,463	-	5,520,463
Nutrition Programs		2,573,860	-	2,573,860
Regulatory		4,653,368	-	4,653,368
Assistance Programs		9,392,341	-	9,392,341
Gaming Expense		-	263,005,372	263,005,372
Other Businesses' Expense		-	103,489,080	103,489,080
Total Expenditures		52,383,197	366,494,451	418,877,648
Increase In Net Assets		19,275,558	17,620,861	36,896,419
Beginning Net Assets		871,188,746	1,355,004,419	2,226,193,164
Ending Net Assets	$	890,464,303	1,372,625,280	2,263,089,583

Chickasaw Nation
Tribal Operations
Statement of Net Assets
January 31, 2017

		Tribal Government	Chickasaw Businesses	Total
Cash And Investments	$	402,283,066	232,163,684	634,446,750
Receivables		168,095	118,139,208	118,307,303
Inventory		22,356	7,515,458	7,537,814
Prepaid Expenses		-	27,126,706	27,126,706
Other Assets		-	1,078,139	1,078,139
Fixed Assets		492,636,013	1,117,098,342	1,609,734,354
Less Payables		(4,645,227)	(130,496,255)	(135,141,482)
Net Assets	$	890,464,303	1,372,625,280	2,263,089,583

On the move to get Special Diabetes Program for Indians funding okayed

CONNIE BARKER

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Hello Everyone,

Last month I had the honor of visiting our Nation's Capitol on behalf of Indian Country. Our goal was to meet with as many Congressional leaders as possible to advocate for re-authorization of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians.

This program is essential to Native Americans and Alaska Natives when it pertains to preventing and treating diabetes. On the home front for many tribes it could be the difference between having a diabetes clinic in their area or not. The funding runs out September 30, 2017.

In an effort to persuade Congress to reauthorize the $150 million project, tribal leaders partnered with the National Indian Health Board to spend a full day on Capitol Hill.

Since 1998 when the program began, the Special Diabetes Program for Indians has proven itself worthy by making a difference in the health and well being of Native Americans and Alaska Natives. A recent study presented by the Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention concluded that the SDPI program had contributed to a 54 percent decrease in End Stage Renal Disease in tribal members. This is a huge accomplishment. As co-chair of the Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee, this continuation of funding is very necessary.

While in Washington, D.C., tribal leaders also met with Acting Indian Health Service Director Rear Admiral Chris Buchanan.

Rear Adm. Buchanan oversees all IHS areas and has a huge job to perform. He is well equipped to fulfill this role, due to the fact that he is a former co-worker at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center. We wish him good luck in his new role.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Tribal Legislator and represent Chickasaws everywhere.

God bless,
Connie Barker
Pickens District Seat 2

Have your children ages 14 to 21 apply now for the Toksali SMART jobs program

NANCY ELLIOTT

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Chokma, chinchokma, Hello, how are you?

One of my favorite programs provided for our youth is the Toksali SMART Program. Toksali means "work" and SMART stands for Successful Mindsets with Attitude and Readiness for Tomorrow. When my children were teenagers, this program was known as the Summer Youth Program. The tribal program evolved from the CETA (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act), which became the JTPA (Job Training Partnership Act) in 1982.

Back when my children participated, Chickasaw youth between the ages of 14 and 21 were matched up with jobs across the Nation and trained on how to become good employees. For 6 to 8 weeks they went to work Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and were paid for a 40-hour week.

I thought back then it was a fabulous program. However, the program has been completely revamped, and made so much better. Not only are the young people taught what it means to be a good employee, but they also attend classes on language and culture, citizenship, and financial matters.

"Students may also be tutored in math and reading to improve their skill level and better prepare them for future employment." "The goal of the program is for participants to acquire new skills in a workplace environment and increase their education in specific career fields." "Experiences may include job shadowing, mentoring, or similar activities designed to provide youth with leadership and work experiences related to tribal operations, health systems, business operations and Chickasaw Nation programs and services."

Eligibility for this program is for Chickasaw youth between the ages of 14 and 21 and the program is offered in the following communities within the Chickasaw Nation: Ada, Ardmore, Duncan, Pauls Valley, Purcell, Sulphur, and Tishomingo. This program gives our youth the opportunity to try different work experiences on a short-term basis and in a safe and nurturing place before they grow up, graduate from high school, and have no idea what they want to do with the rest of their lives.

It was a great program 20-25 years ago, when my children participated, and it has become so much better for our youth today. This program made a difference in the lives of over 600 youth last year.

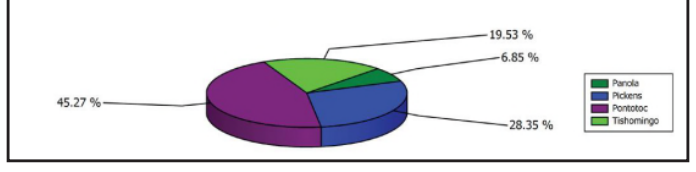
Applications for the Toksali SMART Program can be found at Area Offices and on the website at www.chickasaw.net, and are due by March 31. Young people can participate in this program and still be allowed some time off for vacations and camps. So don't hesitate to check it out to see if it will work for your children.

Speaking of camps, it's time to start thinking about all the top notch summer camps provided by the Chickasaw Nation. A description of all the camps can be found at the website and in the Chickasaw Times. Please let me know if I can help you in any way.

Chipisala' cho anowa, Until I see you again,
Nancy
Nancy.Elliott @Chickasaw.net
(580) 399-4374

Count of Voters by District

Panola	2,238	Pontotoc	14,789
Pickens	9,262	Tishomingo	6,382
			32,671



Chickasaw Bar continuing education, Court Camp upcoming for judicial

CHERI BELLEFEUILLE-GORDON

Chief Justice Supreme Court

Chokma, Hello the Judicial Department is looking forward to spring. The Judicial Department has exciting programs set up for this spring and summer including continuing legal education seminar for members of the Chickasaw Nation Bar Association and YAAKNI` INAALHPISAAT CHOKMA, Chickasaw Nation court camp.

I want to share with you information on the judicial court system. The Supreme Court is directed by the Chickasaw Nation Code and Constitution. One of the general provisions is found in the Chickasaw Nation Code Section 5-103.1, and reads as follows:

"The decision of the Supreme Court shall be final and binding upon the parties except as may be otherwise provided for by law. The appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court shall be coextensive with the Chickasaw Nation and shall extend to all cases of law and in equity. The Supreme Court, by appropriate order, shall have the power to hear appeals, shall have the power to compel inferior Courts or their officials, and officers of the Nation to appropriate actions under law, any may exercise such other jurisdiction as may be conferred by statute. (PR18-044, 10/19/01)"

The Supreme Court supervises the District Court. The District Court consists of a district judge and a special judge and also, the district court clerk and deputy court clerks.

The district court hears cases on divorce, child support, adoption, guardianship, protective orders, juvenile, and misdemeanor criminal, civil and paternity. The deputy clerks will file instruments in all cases in the Chickasaw Judicial courts. However, the court clerk and deputy court clerks are not attorneys and cannot provide legal advice. By Code, the courts cannot provide service in the following areas: Probate, Power of Attorney, Last Will and Testament and Real Estate.

Chief Justice Cheri Bellefeuille-Gordon attended the Inter-Tribal, Tribal Court Committee meeting on January 12, 2017. It is always great to be able to talk to other tribal courts and extend a hand if they need our help.

We are very excited about the 2017 High School Mock Trial Qualifying Rounds for area high schools which was held at our court on February 3, 2017. Calera, Jenks and Yukon High Schools competed in a full day of mock trials. Coordinators for the mock trials were attorneys Deresa Gray and Susie Bolin.

The Supreme Court Justices opened a position for a new deputy court clerk for the District Court. The position was accepted by a prior Chickasaw Nation School to Work student, Tiffany Postoak. Tiffany worked for the judicial department for almost two (2) years while getting her degree in legal studies and we are delighted to have her back with us. Tiffany Postoak is the daughter of Eddie Postoak and Tommie Postoak. She graduated from East Central University in 2015 with a degree in Legal Studies/Political Science. She is currently enrolled at East Central University working on my Master's in Water Resource Policy and Management program.

YAAKNI` INAALHPISAAT CHOKMA, Chickasaw Nation court camp is scheduled for June 12 and 13, 2017. This is a two (2) day camp from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. The camp educates youth on the operations of the tribal court system. Students have the opportunity to meet tribal judges, Supreme Court Justices, Chickasaw Lighthorse police officers, Peacemakers, and court staff. Students will also visit CLEET, Pontotoc County Jail and participate in mock trials. Students will be directly exposed to the basics of certain substantive areas of Chickasaw tribal law. The ages are 8 to 14. Transportation is not provided. We hope our camp will influence the students to continue their education and to possibly pursue a job in the court system. We are now accepting applications for our camp. Application deadlines are fast approaching, with the final day of acceptance being **April 15, 2017**. We are also looking for ten (10) volunteers to assist with the group during the camp days, any Chickasaw employee working toward IDP can call Connie Tillery, (580) 235-0281 to volunteer and receive IDP credit. For more information or to obtain an application, contact the Supreme Court office (580) 235-0281. Additional information is available at www.chickasaw.net/youthcamps. Applications may be submitted by mail, fax or online or contact Connie Tillery, Supreme Court Clerk, at (580) 235-0281.

The Chickasaw Nation Bar Association continuing legal education spring seminar is now scheduled for April 28, 2017, at Winstar Convention Center to begin at 8 a.m. This seminar will be 1/2 day seminar to include CLE credit and ethics. There will be a judicial panel which will include Eugene Bertman of the firm Talley, Turner & Bertman. A speaker from the Oklahoma Bar Association will be discussing ethics in law. We are also pleased to have Ada attorney Jason Christopher to speak on the updates in the criminal code of Oklahoma. Please mark your calendar now to attend and contact Ginger Sanders, District Court Clerk Deputy, (580) 235-0279 for registration. Contact information for our Bar Association members is listed at www.chickasaw.net on the judicial page click Bar Association. We are currently updating the Chickasaw Nation Bar Association directory. The directory will include all practicing attorneys in good standing.

The District Court had a total of 50 NEW cases filed in January 2017. The Court Advocates assisted 81 individuals in the month of January 2017. As our records indicate, we are continuing to grow and with that growth we will endeavor to provide our citizens with service and guidance to meet their legal needs

Again, it is my pleasure to report on a busy and successful month in the Judicial Department. As always, thank you for allowing me to serve as your Chief Justice. It is a privilege and an honor to serve you.

CHIPISALA` CHO ANOWA means "Until I see you again."
Cheri Bellefeuille-Gordon. Please contact me, I would love to hear from you (580) 235-0281 or cheri.bellefeuille-gordon@chickasaw.net.

2016-2017 Tribal Legislature

Following is a list of the Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislators including their address and phone numbers. If you have any questions or need any information, please contact the legislator in your area.

Pontotoc District
Seat #

1. Toby Perkins
   15810 CR 1569
   Ada, OK 74820
   (580) 399-2606
   Toby.Perkins@chickasaw.net

2. Nancy Elliott
   620 Ann
   Ada, OK 74820
   (580) 399-4374
   Nancy.Elliott@chickasaw.net

3. Katie Case
   P.O. Box 145
   Stonewall, OK 74871
   (580) 272-8385
   Katie.Case@chickasaw.net

4. Dean McManus
   5980 CR 3430
   Ada, OK 74820
   (580) 235-2651
   Dean.McManus@chickasaw.net

5. Lisa J. Billy
   19259 150th Street
   Lindsay, OK 73052

Pickens District
Seat #

1. David Woerz
   P.O. Box 669
   Ardmore, OK 73402
   (580) 235-3240
   David.Woerz@chickasaw.net

2. Connie Barker
   509 SW 7th Ave.
   Marietta, OK 73448
   (580) 272-4175
   Connie.Barker@chickasaw.net

3. Linda Briggs
   P.O. Box 241
   Marietta, OK 73448
   (580) 272-7268
   Linda.Briggs@chickasaw.net

4. Shana Tate Hammond
   801 North Mississippi
   Ada, Oklahoma, 74820
   (580) 235-1438
   Shana.Hammond@chickasaw.net

Tishomingo District
Seat #

1. Scott Wood
   204 East Main Street
   Tishomingo, OK 73460
   (580) 221-1430
   Scott.Wood@chickasaw.net

2. Tim Colbert
   P.O. Box 773
   Sulphur, OK 73086
   (580) 421-7242
   Tim.Colbert@chickasaw.net

3. Steven Woods
   5071 Gray's Road
   Davis, OK 73030
   (580) 272-7270
   Steve.Woods@chickasaw.net

Panola District
Seat #

1. Beth Alexander
   PO Box 246
   Achille, OK 74720
   (580) 272-7850
   beth.alexander@chickasaw.net
   bethalexander22@hotmail.com

Cycling, physical activity key to Chickasaw elder achieving personal goals

Chickasaw David Atkins, 68, takes a break in front of the Chickasaw White House during his 420-mile cycling journey through the lands of the Five Civilized Tribes – a trek also undertaken by eight fellow Chickasaw riders.

Near the tail end of a 420-mile group cycling journey through five Native American tribal territories, the Oklahoma heat and humidity had taken its toll on 68-year-old full-blood Chickasaw elder David (Dave) Atkins.

The dehydration and doubt must have shown as another Chickasaw club rider assured Mr. Atkins he could rest part of the ride.

"Nope, that's not what I'm doing this ride for," Mr. Atkins replied. "I've got to finish the entire ride."

The 2016 Oklahoma Freewheel honored the Cherokee, Muscogee (Creek), Seminole, Choctaw and Chickasaw nations.

Every year since 2014, Mr. Atkins has participated in the Oklahoma Freewheel and pedaled through Oklahoma for the Chickasaw people, veterans and elders. He personally dedicated his ride to his nephew, Brian, a former employee of the Chickasaw Cultural Center, who passed away in 2014.

Oklahoma Freewheel serves as a bit of a homecoming for Mr. Atkins, who grew up in the Chickasaw Nation community of Stonewall, Okla.

It was no easy task, but the elder prepared with months of daily rides across Albuquerque, N.M., where he now lives with his wife of 34 years, Lola. She is Laguna/Navajo and a retired Indian Health Service senior nurse officer. She graduated from Arizona State University and received her master's degree in nursing from the University of New Mexico. Together the couple has raised five children as a blended family. They have six grandchildren.

Mr. Atkins completed the entire Oklahoma Freewheel. He felt elated, he said, especially when Chickasaw Cycling Club members gathered for a group photo at the beginning and conclusion of the ride. Mr. Atkins' goal of getting more Chickasaw citizens involved in cycling had become a reality. Eight Chickasaws made the entire ride with him.

Mr. Atkins laid the groundwork for a lifetime of physical activity by establishing personal goals.

It's important, he said, to set goals ahead of your journey through life. Goals serve as a carrot on a stick, and it helps when you have to push through difficulties.

Mr. Atkins has experienced his share of challenge and sorrow. He grew up at a time when speaking the Chickasaw language wasn't socially acceptable. He is a veteran who loaded bombs on aircraft during the Vietnam War. He lost his wife, Gloria, in an automobile accident and his mother, Rosie, in the same year. He has had to discover ways to keep going.

Over time, he noticed the vital roles athleticism and spirituality played in bringing him back to balance when life threw obstacles in his path.

He remembers in high school other Indian students would shy away from trying out for team sports.

"In our whole high school, there were maybe 20 individuals who would identify as Native American and very few that would compete, although many were good athletes," Mr. Atkins said. He played baseball and basketball in high school and participated in Little League Baseball at Stonewall.

He had a natural inclination for physical activity. He was walking in the shoes of his eldest brother, Eugene, who was an accomplished boxer, wrestler and track star at Chilocco Indian School, the Indian boarding school in north central Oklahoma.

After high school, he attended Haskell Institute, now Haskell Indian Nations University, in Lawrence, Kan. While there, he accidentally ran into a placement on the cross-country and track team when a roommate asked him out on a run.

"He took off and tried to leave me, but I stayed with him," Mr. Atkins recalled. "I think we ran about three miles. My roomie said, 'Man, you're pretty good. Let me introduce you to the cross-country coach.'"

After his time at Haskell, Uncle Sam introduced Mr. Atkins to the Vietnam War. His time spent competing or going on leisurely runs paid off with his training in the U.S. Marine Corps.

He served as an aviation ordnance man loading bombs and other weapons on aircraft. He spent about six months "boots-on-the-ground" in enemy territory working as a "bomb humper." After serving for two and one-half years, he was honorably discharged.

During his early post-military time, Atkins bounced around and became caught up in a fog of drugs and alcohol. He held on, he said, to the spirituality and values instilled in him during his youth by his parents, Jack and Rosie, and Hickory Hill Baptist Church near Fittstown, Okla.

He had abandoned rural Oklahoma to see the big, wide world. But it was his return to rural Oklahoma, his family, and spirituality that helped him get over some trauma he encountered in that big, wide world.

He credits his family, his church, and his faith for helping him return to his spiritual roots. The church was his support group and his big book, he said, was the Bible.

Under the mentorship of Albuquerque pastor Bill Barnett, and of the Indian Nations Baptist Church in Seminole, Okla., Mr. Atkins was recognized for his Christian commitments. He was ordained into the ministry by Indian Nations Baptist Church.

He set a goal to obtain his college degree. He attended Oklahoma Baptist University, the University of Oklahoma and Lesley College. He earned a bachelor's degree, Master's of Social Work, and Master's of Science in Management, respectively, from those institutions.

To reward himself for graduating from Lesley College, Mr. Atkins ran the Boston Marathon in 1994. It was his last marathon. Previously, he had completed the Pikes Peak half-marathon ascension, as well as other marathons and half-marathons in New Mexico, Phoenix, Colorado, and Seattle - about one marathon per year.

His time spent running caused extensive wear and tear on his knees. The cartilage in his knee dwindled and left him with pain anytime it bore weight. He received a partial right knee replacement and later a total left knee replacement. Unable to continue running, he began looking for alternative ways to work his body.

When he was 56, a group of women invited him on a bike ride.

"Next thing I knew they were out of sight," Mr. Atkins said. "One friend stayed back with me and we completed a 20-mile ride."

He visited a local bike shop and asked what he needed to do to keep up. He learned it would be hopeless on his mountain bike, so he bought his first road bike.

When he retired in 2013 from the Indian Health Service after 35 years as a clinical social worker specializing in substance abuse, he found a surplus of free time. He focused on cycling as a personal goal and became a member of the New Mexico Touring Society.

"There is no better way to see the beauty and learn the history of a place than on a bicycle," he said.

Mr. Atkins rides three or four times a week with an average of 45 miles per ride, often with elevation gains of 2,500 feet. His group has been all over Albuquerque.

"It's a time when you're out there clearing your head," he said. "It's a meditation time and my prayer time. It's body, mind and spirit."

He would like to convince Chickasaws and others to get out and move, especially youth and elders.

"You're not too old to start doing some type of physical activity," he said, citing his own experience taking on cycling as a retiree.

As a Chickasaw elder cyclist, Mr. Atkins wants to be a healthy role model. He still sees it as a "carrot" to chase. He trains to finish whatever ride he plans to conquer next.

He completed a European ride with his Albuquerque cycling club in September, riding from Vienna, Austria to Budapest, Hungary in six days.

Mr. Atkins cites scripture in support of his lifetime dedication to physical endeavors.

Isaiah 40:29-31: He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall. But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

CONTRIBUTED BY Brandon Frye, Media Relations.

Chickasaw therapist, manager worked her way up with help of education grants

Governor Bill Anoatubby with fellow Chickasaw citizen Sara Landreth.

ARDMORE, Okla. – For many, relaxing music, soft lighting and the scent of lavender set the ambience for a soothing massage. For Sara Landreth, it's another busy day at the office.

Ms. Landreth keeps a bustling schedule with her job as instructor and manager at the Body Business School of Massage Therapy in Ardmore. She also acts as Bradshaw Event Center building manager at the Bradshaw Event Center. Top that all off with being a single mother to six-year-old daughter, Payton.

"I'm the recruitment, I'm the advertising, I'm the instructor, I'm the pep talk, I'm the team motivator," Ms. Landreth said with a laugh. "It's a wonderful job."

Ms. Landreth was able to pursue her career in massage therapy with the help of Chickasaw Nation education grants. Eventually, her career led her to the Body Business School of Massage Therapy.

The school first opened in Durant, Okla., in 1998. The Ardmore facility opened in 2013 with Ms. Landreth's assistance. She prepared the multi-room environment by setting up every massage room with a massage table, lighting and a radio. This helped to create a "real" working environment for students.

"That's the cool part about it being a multi-room facility," she said. "When students arrive, they are actually practicing in a massage setting as opposed to cubicles.

"It doesn't even feel like work. If I didn't have bills, I'd do it for free. That's how much I love it."

Students are allowed to create their own schedules by working with Landreth on an individual basis. Students must complete phase one and two of the program before graduating.

Phase one and two involve orientation, business ethics, massage sequence training, an internship, hot stones training, prenatal care training, myofascial trigger points and more.

After completing these steps, students may acquire licenses if they choose, or continue their educations with phase three and four of the massage therapy program.

Chickasaw citizens are eligible for grants covering the cost of tuition. Other grants available to Native American students offer opportunities to fund tuition.

Ms. Landreth wants her students to be successful in everything they do.

"I want them all to do well," she said. " I tell them the Chickasaw Nation allows that."

Ms. Landreth hopes her students gain positive experience from the program. Student feedback helps her tailor the program precisely to what students need to learn and how to provide exceptional customer service.

"It's instant gratification," she said about her job. "If someone comes in with a stiff neck and they can't turn their head, fifteen minutes later they can function and they feel better through myofascial techniques."

According to the National Association of Myofascial Trigger Point Therapists, myofascial refers to muscle tissue in your body which can become agitated through stress or strain. When injured, the muscles form trigger points that cause pain.

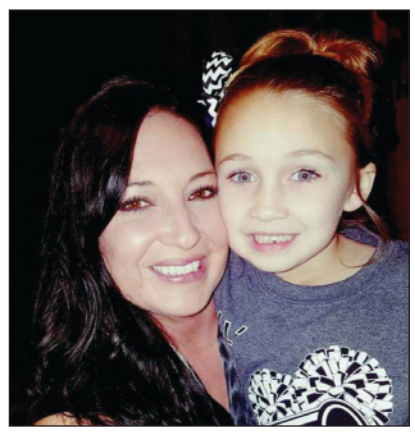
"Trigger points often cause pain not only in the local area but also in surrounding connective tissue and muscle tissue, which is what makes up our myofascial system," Ms. Landreth said.

Through myofascial trigger point techniques, pain is relieved by manipulating the tissue. Landreth is able to ease people of their pain by using these techniques to help sooth their tense muscles.

Many of her students have gone on to be successful massage therapists. Some work in chiropractic or sports medicine, others in traditional spa settings.

When she isn't working at the school, Landreth is helping coordinate and host events at the Bradshaw Event Center, originally the historic YWCA building.

"We want to provide a place that



Sara Landreth and daughter Payton Rose.

is affordable for people to rent," Ms. Landreth said. "We also have a prep kitchen available for rent. So, you can slice and dice your own food, or we've got a caterer if they don't want to deal with the food preparation."

Family reunions, weddings, baby showers, meetings, luncheons and more are all booked aty the Bradshaw Event Center. Ms. Landreth attempts to accommodate the variety of events people request.

She said her success "just kind of happened. I'm more focused on people and students, so everything else just falls into place.

"I owe it to my mom," she said. "She's been a huge part of my life. She not only taught us what we needed for life, she taught us love. I think that's a huge reason why I'm able to do what I do successfully, business-wise and also personally with the students."

Ms. Landreth is appreciative of her family, co-workers and the Chickasaw Nation for helping her achieve her dreams. More importantly, she is grateful for the opportunity to help others accomplish their goals.

"I know hard work pays off, but I never knew that I would have such a fantastic support system with my tribe," Ms. Landreth said. "I'm thankful that I feel like I'm making a difference in people's lives and that people trust me."

CONTRIBUTED BY Mallory Jones, Media Relations.

Update address online or by phone!

It is a happy new year when we can keep in touch with Chickasaw citizens!

Let us know your physical address with an easy address update online or by phone.

Receive important news, resources, guides and help us respond when you are affected by a natural disaster or weather emergency when you add your current information online at www.chickasaw.net/address or call (888) 661-0137.

Together, we can prevent diabetes!
Mr. Eagle's Nest
Eagle Adventure
Chokma!
Mr. Eagle's Nest is a place to share tips for keeping your body strong and healthy.
Soaring in the sky today, I noticed the sun is staying up longer each day and soon, spring will arrive. Miss Rabbit is already planning for her garden and is most excited to grow the Three Sisters. Have you heard about the Three Sisters?
Traditionally, corn, string beans and squash are planted together on a mound of earth. The corn grows tall in the center, the string bean vines climb up the corn stalk and the squash vines cover the ground around the taller plants. These Three Sisters help each other grow strong together.
Talk to your family about what you could grow at home. Maybe you could grow the Three Sisters or other vegetables in your garden.
Do you know the Chickasaw word for corn? You say tanchi'.
Our Eagle Adventure educator friends will host fun activities at the Chickasaw Cultural Center's annual Three Sisters Spring Celebration from Monday, March 13 through Sunday, March 19.
For more information, visit www.chickasawculturalcenter.com

Births

SAMUEL VAN COZAD

Samuel Van Cozad was born Nov. 30, 2016 at Southwestern Medical Center, Lawton, Okla. He weighed 8 lbs., 1 oz., and measured 21 inches at birth.

He was greeted by his sister, Kymbri. Samuel is the son of Michaela Porter and Samuel Cozad, of Anadarko, Okla.

He is the grandson of Mick and Christina Porter, of Ada, Okla., and Michelle Smith, of Anadarko.

He is the great-grandson of Janie Newby, of Konawa, Okla., and the great-grandson of Connie Tillery, of Ada, and John and Kathy Porter, of Ada.

Samuel is the nephew of Mallory Porter, of Anadarko, Mariah Porter, of Weatherford, Okla., and Connor and Hunter Conklin, of Ada.

Addy Deaton receives Super Star Stallion Award

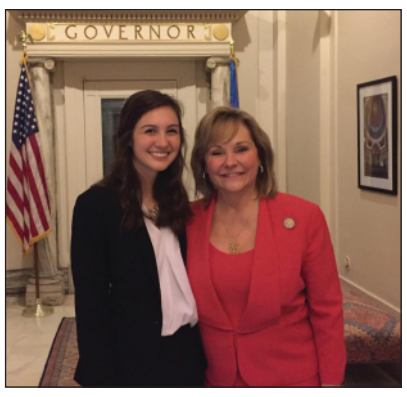
ADDY DEATON

Addy Deaton, a Chickasaw youth, was recently given February's Super Star Stallion award at Schwartz Elementary in the Mid-Del School District for her pre-kindergarten class.

Addy was cited for working hard, doing good deeds, helping others, being friendly and smiling often.

She is the daughter of Michael and T.J. Deaton and granddaughter of Chickasaw elder, Philip Wiseman and his wife, Pat.

Chickasaw student in capitol round table



Kasee Hayes and Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin.

A Chickasaw high school student has recently participated in a group roundtable to discuss young women and science, technology, engineering and mathematics careers.

Kasee Hayes, of Edmond, Okla., is a senior at Deer Creek (OK) High School. Miss Hayes met with a group that included Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin to discuss math-based professions and women. Also included in the group were one fellow high school student, and six engineers and members of engineering faculty.

In addition to her high school studies, Miss Hayes participates in the Francis Tuttle Pre-Engineering Academy in Oklahoma City. She attended the roundtable with one of her Francis Tuttle instructors, Julia Utley, and aerospace engineer.

Miss Hayes will graduate from Deer Creek in May, likely as valedictorian. She plans to attend Oklahoma State University for the fall term.

She is the daughter of Rob and Shawna Hayes, of Edmond.

Birthdays

Paul Guynes celebrates 80th

Paul and Jean Guynes at the Chickasaw picnic near Sacramento, Calif.

Happy Birthday to my dad, Paul K. Guynes. He turned 80 years old September 9, 2016.

His grandmother, Margaret James, was an original enrollee.

He has made a beautiful life for himself and continues to stay active. The picture above was at the most recent Chickasaw Picnic near Sacramento, California. He never misses any of the meetings/picnics. He has been attending the Annual Chickasaw festivals for the last several years in Oklahoma.

He is married to Jean Guynes. She received recognition for her volunteer work at California Chickasaw gathering in Sacramento.

He is the epitome of a PROUD CHICKASAW! He lives up to our moto of Unconquered and Unconquerable! He is just the greatest man ever! My Dad!

Nancy Guynes

Carrillo joins UT-Permian Basin football squad

CHRISTOPHER CARRILLO

A Chickasaw football player has recently transferred to a Texas university where he will continue his academic and athletic careers.

Christopher Carrillo completed a career at Langston (OK) University, where he was a two-year starting left guard and tackle. He was an all-conference player both years at Langston.

He was on the Langston honor roll for two years and made the dean's list as a freshman.

Mr. Carrillo has now transferred to the University of Texas-Permian Basin in Odessa, Texas where he will join the UTPB Falcon football team.

He was on the ASCO Allstars as a high school senior. He was also a member of his high school powerlifting team, and qualified for the state tournament his senior year.

Dr. Sealy named to Vanderbilt med school post

DR. LINDA SEALY

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - A Chickasaw academician has recently been appointed to a new post.

Linda Sealy, Ph.D., has been named associate dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for Basic Sciences at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

Dr. Sealy has been part of the Vanderbilt faculty since 1986. She is an associate professor of molecular physiology and biophysics, cell and developmental biology and cancer biology.

Since 2007, she has served as co-director, then director, of the Initiative for Maximizing Student Diversity, a National Institutes of Health-sponsored grant for the graduate training of underrepresented minorities. Under Dr. Sealy's directorship, the program has helped propel Vanderbilt to the top tier of institutions training minority Ph.D.'s.

Her advocacy for holistic admission in graduate recruiting has been recognized nationally as a critical advance in expanding the pipeline of graduate students to include underrepresented minorities.

Stout and Hawkins Reunion

Honoring Carol Sue Stout
Noon - 3 p.m., Saturday, March 25, 2017
Chickasaw Community Building
Stonewall Housing Addition, Stonewall, Oklahoma
All family and friends invited. Please bring a covered dish.
For more information call Liz at (580) 320-6333.

The Horn Family host 40th Annual Gospel Singing

7 p.m., Saturday, March 25, 2017
Chickasaw Community Building
818 E. 6th Street, Tishomingo, Oklahoma
Featured Guest: The Goodin Family, of Tishomingo.
All singers are welcome. Free of charge. Concession stand will be available.
To sign-up you or your group, or for directions contact Bonnie Horn at (580) 760-6127.

Outstanding Achievement Award recipients

KINSEY BLACK

Kinsey Black, daughter of Brandy and Luis Juarez of Cache, Okla., has been honored for Outstanding Achievement in athletics, academics, citizenship and Future Farmers of America (FFA).

Kinsey is a ninth-grader at Cache Mid High School. Cache JOM and Title VII coordinator Carmen Glenn recognized the Chickasaw student for hard work both in the classroom and on the field.

"I have had the pleasure of coaching Kinsey in softball and basketball," Ms. Glenn said. "She letters in three high school sports, but where she really stands out is in the classroom. Kinsey is a 4.0 student and works hard to excel. She is also our JOM parent committee student representative. She is dedicated to her studies, works hard as a team player and has big goals set for herself. I have no doubt that she will achieve anything she sets her mind to."

Kinsey divides her time among sports, academics, JOM, Native American Club, FFA and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

"Every day I have to manage my time wisely between studying, games and practices," Kinsey said. "If we don't have a game, we usually have at least two hours of practice every day. I am a member of the Restoration Church of God in Cache where my grandpa is the pastor and I teach the children's church class every Sunday."

Kinsey hopes to attend college after high school and study dentistry.

NICOLE COLLINS

Nicole Collins, daughter of Connie Myrick, of Midwest City, Okla., was honored for Outstanding Achievement in Fitness.

Nicole is a fourth-grader at Solider Creek Elementary school in Midwest City. Her teacher, Dee Ellen Hawkins, recognized this Chickasaw student for standing out in her physical abilities as well as leadership traits.

"Nicole has always stood out in my physical education classes not only by meeting the fitness standards, but by being an example for her classmates to follow," Ms. Hawkins said. "Nicole is kind, sensitive and compassionate. She demonstrates good citizenship and leadership."

Nicole is a member of Girl Scouts and enjoys her hip-hop dance class. She is currently training with the Marathon Club at Solider Creek to run in the Kids' Memorial Marathon in April as well as fundraising for the American Heart Association by jumping rope.

Nicole loves to explore outside, read and play with friends. She wants to be a veterinarian when she grows up.

Dad, daughter both earn master's degrees

Father and daughter, Bailey Miller and Barry Hughes, earned master's degrees from East Central (OK) University. The pair are pictured at graduation wearing their Chickasaw honor stoles.

ADA, Okla. - In December, Chickasaw citizens Barry Hughes and daughter Bailey Miller walked across the East Central (OK) University stage, a father/daughter moment that few experience.

The duo both earned master's degrees, he in school counseling and she in human resource administration. Both wore Chikasha Holitoplichi honor stoles with their caps and gowns.

"It was great to graduate with my dad," Ms. Miller said. "He has always been so supportive. A lot of our conversations involved coursework, deadlines and more deadlines."

Both were faced with the challenges of balancing work, family and studies that often comes with the higher education journey. They never had class together, but leaned on each other for strength and support during the process.

"We discussed school often," Mr. Hughes said. "We went through a wide range of emotions together - frustration, anger, disappointment, joy, stubbornness, pride. Having each other to lean on helped us accomplish our academic goals."

Dad and daughter both expressed appreciation for the Chickasaw Nation's support of their common journey.

"We were both assisted by education grants for tuition, textbook grants, even clothing grants," Mr. Hughes said. "We each earned a laptop through the technology grant, degree completion grants and graduation fee reimbursement."

"The staff in the Higher Education Division showed professionalism at all times and were always supportive," Ms. Miller said.

To find out more about Chickasaw Nation higher education services, visit www.Chickasaw.net/highered.

CONTRIBUTED BY Jennifer Jones, Public Affairs.

Disaster Relief

The Chickasaw Nation is committed to serving citizens when they need emergency assistance. In the event of flood, fire, tornado or other natural disaster, keeping citizens safe, providing assistance and creating avenues for others to help are top priorities.

Storm Shelter program provides key element to staying safe in tornado

Chickasaw citizen Tyra Shackleford and children by her storm shelter. She received her storm shelter through the Chickasaw Nation Storm Shelter program. Jacquelyn Sparks

Tornadoes can be devastating to property, and a threat to families in Oklahoma.

Administered by Chickasaw Nation Housing, the Chickasaw Nation Storm Shelter Program was created to help families who live in "tornado alley."

Established in 2003, the storm shelter program has installed approximately 4,000 shelters.

In 2016, the program provided shelters to more than 320 citizens within Chickasaw Nation boundaries and more than 190 citizens who live outside Chickasaw Nation boundaries.

The program has provided shelter to Chickasaw families in Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri and New Mexico.

Chickasaw citizen Tyra Shackleford applied for a storm shelter through the program and had it installed in 2013.

"It is a relief to have a storm shelter," Mrs. Shackleford said. "I don't know where we'd go if we didn't have the storm shelter, because we're not in town, and there are no other places for shelter where we live. The idea of staying in a closet or bathroom is not appealing when we've seen so many homes completely destroyed by tornadoes."

To Apply for a Storm Shelter

The storm shelter program provides shelters for privately owned homes of Chickasaw citizens. The service is available both inside and outside the Chickasaw Nation boundaries.

Applicants Must Provide:

· CDIB/Citizenship Card

· Social Security cards of all household members

· Income verification of all household members

· Copy of warranty deed

To Qualify:

· Must be Chickasaw citizen

· No outstanding debt owed to the housing division or the Chickasaw Nation

· Home must be the applicant's primary residence

· Storm shelters are awarded one time only to each family in order to meet the needs of all Chickasaws.

Applications are available at www.chickasaw.net.

For more information, or an application, contact the Chickasaw Nation Storm Shelter Program at (580) 421-8800.

CONTRIBUTED BY Carmen Carter, Public Affairs.

Chickasaw Nation Lighthorse Police Department officers assist Chickasaws and other Native American citizens across the Chickasaw Nation. Lighthorse officers are dispatched to areas of need throughout the Chickasaw Nation and beyond. Jacquelyn Sparks

Lighthorse offer multi-level disaster response

In the event of storms, tornadoes, flooding and other natural disasters, the Chickasaw Nation Lighthorse Police Department is there to help. The Lighthorse are called upon to assist disaster victims within the Chickasaw Nation boundaries and throughout Oklahoma. Lighthorse officers are cross-deputized with other law enforcement agencies and can service communities outside the Chickasaw Nation when needed.

"We have 52 sworn, cross-deputized officers and eight civilian staff, including dispatchers," Chickasaw Nation Lighthorse Criminal Investigator Charles Palmer said. "Our department can provide search and rescue operations that utilize manual searches, thermal imaging cameras and utility task vehicles to assist in recovery efforts. We also have staff trained in water rescue and are currently equipped with two Zodiac boats, one pontoon boat and other water rescue equipment to assist during flooding events within and surrounding the Chickasaw Nation boundaries."

The Lighthorse team works closely with geospatial information and environmental services to help locate and rescue citizens in the event of an emergency.

For more information, contact the Chickasaw Nation Lighthorse Police Department at (580) 436-7213 or (888) 804-3234.

CONTRIBUTED BY Carmen Carter, Public Affairs.

Geo-Spatial group employs technology to quickly locate, assist citizens

After a tornado hits, the work to locate citizens and survey property damage begins. With the help of new technology, the Chickasaw Nation can assist those who may need emergency help in the aftermath of a storm.

The Chickasaw Nation Geo-Spatial Information (GSI) Department uses mapping technology to track the paths of storms. In addition, it maps out directions to damaged property so disaster relief teams assist citizens immediately. The locations of disaster areas are also shared with emergency responders, or other official staff, who might be able to help with clean up or provide other services.

GSI also uses aerial photography after a large storm has passed in order to get a pre- and post-storm comparison on property damage.

GeoSpatial information on a larger scale

GSI mapping capabilities that help citizens in the aftermath of a storm are important, and the team also connects with emergency services in a variety of other ways.

The GSI Team creates, maintains and enhances databases, maps and internal mapping websites for various Chickasaw Nation departments and divisions, including Lighthorse Police, Housing, Environmental Services and others.

The team is also responsible for preparing maps and information for some of the area's city, county, state and federal agencies. Map books provided to local fire departments can enable firefighters to better prepare by identifying the type and size of structure involved and locating the nearest fire hydrants before they reach the scene of a fire.

Detailed maps of the service area in south-central Oklahoma are provided to Chickasaw Lighthorse Police Department, Oklahoma Highway Patrol, county sheriffs offices, local fire departments and search-and-rescue teams.

Maps are also made available on computers in Lighthorse Police Department vehicles and on customized websites. These high-tech maps enable police officers and other emergency responders to quickly find the fastest and safest route to an auto accident, fire or other emergency.

Maps created for the Oklahoma Highway Patrol enable dispatchers to have a detailed view of county roads on large maps on the wall of the dispatch office, information that is vital when dispatching officers to a call in a rural area.

CONTRIBUTED BY Carmen Carter, Public Affairs.

Search & Rescue ready to move when disaster hits

The Chickasaw Nation recognizes the need to supplement and assist local and county emergency services within Oklahoma.

The Chickasaw Nation Search and Rescue (SAR) team of volunteers provides help in case of local, state and national disasters. The team encourages volunteers to utilize their current skills and education, and to acquire knowledge in other areas of training to benefit the public, law enforcement, emergency responders, governmental agencies and the American Red Cross. Search and rescue volunteers have assisted in emergencies, such as fires, hurricanes and tornadoes.

For more information, contact the SAR coordinator at (580) 399-9776.

Disaster Relief Fund established to assist citizens in times of need

Chickasaw citizens can help those affected by natural disasters and other crises by making a donation to the Chickasaw Nation Disaster Relief and Recovery Fund. The Chickasaw Nation has activated the disaster and relief fund for individuals to contribute to relief and recovery efforts associated with emergencies.

All of the donations received are used toward disaster relief and recovery. Donations are distributed to serve as many Chickasaw citizens as possible. The Chickasaw Nation maintains a high level of accountability for these funds. All donations are tax deductible, and a tax receipt is provided upon completion of each transaction.

Donations to the fund can be made online or via mail to the Chickasaw Nation Disaster Relief and Recovery Fund, Chickasaw Foundation, P.O. Box 1726, Ada, OK 74821-1726. For more information call (580) 389-1740.

Chickasaw citizens whose homes and/or property have been directly affected, can contact the office of Chickasaw Nation Disaster Relief and Recovery, at (855) 389-1740.

Update your address!

When Chickasaw citizens are affected by natural disasters or weather emergencies, the Chickasaw Nation responds. Disaster team personnel telephone or visit homes to determine who might have been affected by the disaster and how the Chickasaw Nation can help.

It is of critical importance the tribe has your correct address. The clearinghouse for addresses and phone records is the tribal election office. Anytime you change your address or phone number, please contact the tribal election office as soon as possible.

In addition, Chickasaw citizens receive voter registration forms, a free subscription to the Chickasaw Times and the annual programs and services guide. Updates are quick and easy. Change of address forms are available at www.chickasaw.net. Forms can be printed, completed and mailed to the election office; P.O. Box 695, Ada, OK 74821. If you do not have web access, call toll free at (888) 661-0137.

KCNP on the air offering updates, critical information during severe weather outbreaks

Brian Brashier broadcasting live from KCNP stations. Marcy Gray

During weather emergencies, KCNP-Chickasaw Community Radio can be heard at 89.5 FM in Ada and 89.3 FM in Dickson, Oklahoma. The stations provide non-commercial community programming to listeners. During disasters, KCNP continually updates information from emergency managers, law enforcement agencies and the National Weather Service. Listeners can also stream KCNP live at www.kcnp.org on a computer or smartphone.

KCNP's broadcast schedule features news and information on tribal, local and national issues. For Oklahomans in the stations' listening area, weather is often one of the biggest news stories of the year. Many Oklahomans turn to radio to stay informed on the status of storms.

In 2016, KCNP was selected an NOAA Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador. This designation formally recognizes KCNP and NOAA as partners who collaborate to improve the country's readiness against extreme weather and climate events.

More Radio Coverage of the Storms

The Chickasaw Nation also owns South Central Oklahoma Radio Enterprise (SCORE) Radio. SCORE is a collection of four commercial radio stations in Ada: KADA 99.3 FM (1230AM), KTLS 106.5 FM, KXFC 105.5 FM and KYKC 100.1 FM.

KYKC serves rural south-central Oklahoma. It was selected a "primary" radio station by the Federal Communications Commission. The designation provided KYKC with satellite equipment capable of receiving emergency messages directly from source providers, such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency. KYKC is then able to relay those messages to other radio stations across southern Oklahoma.

According to emergency management officials, the station's equipment set-up of transmitters and generators assures KYKC will stay on the air during storms and outages. KYKC was chosen because of its high-power radio signal, 50,000 watts, and its reputation as an outstanding and reliable broadcaster.

Application deadline is April 15

Youth Camps, Clinics, Academies now accepting applications

The Chickasaw Nation is now accepting applications for 2017 youth camps, clinics and academies. A number of tribal divisions work together to offer a variety of educational and recreational activities for youth to explore new opportunities and learn new skills.

Application deadline is April 15, 2017.

Chickasaw Nation 2017 youth events include:

Summer:

Chikasha Albinachi 'Cultural Camp'

May 31-June 1

Ages 6 to 11

Chickasaw Cultural Center, Sulphur, Oklahoma

This two-day camp provides students the opportunity to learn about and experience a variety of cultural activities, such as traditional games, stomp dancing, crafts and the Chickasaw language. Transportation is not provided.

For more information, contact Cultural Resources at (580) 622-7140.

Camp Survivor

May 30-June 2

Ages 9 to 13 or entering grades 4-8

YMCA Camp Classen, Davis, Oklahoma

Camp Survivor is a wellness camp that incorporates activities promoting physical, mental, cultural and spiritual health. Throughout the week, campers participate in numerous activities, including swimming, hiking, fishing, archery, canoeing, rock climbing, stickball and nutrition education. This is an overnight camp.

Transportation is not provided.

For more information, contact Camps and Recreation at (580) 272-5716 or youthcamps@chickasaw.net.

Environmental Camp

May 31-June 2

Ages 8 to 12

Chickasaw Nation Housing, Ada, Oklahoma

Environmental Camp is a three day camp focusing on connecting children with nature. Connecting children to the outdoor world is essential to our children's health and development.

Transportation is not provided.

For more information, contact Environmental Services at (580) 272-5412.

Tennis Clinics

Tennis Clinic 101- June 5-6 / Ages 8 to 11 or entering grades 3-6

Tennis Clinic II- June 7-9 / Ages 12 to 18 or entering grades 7-12

Ada Tennis Center, Ada, Oklahoma

This clinic offers students the tools necessary to build a lasting foundation for the sport of tennis. Participants learn about honor, integrity, sportsmanship and teamwork.

Transportation is provided.

For more information, contact Camps and Recreation at (580) 272-5716 or youthcamps@chickasaw.net.

Chickasaw Nation Aviation and Space Academy (CNASA)

June 5-9

Ages 10 to 18

Science, Technology and Math Academy, Ada, Oklahoma

This is a weeklong academy for students interested in space, aviation, math and science. CNASA is designed to inspire excellence and to motivate and challenge the vision, talent and energies of Chickasaw youth, encouraging them to pursue careers in science and technology. Transportation is provided for CNASA scholarship students who live out of state.

For more information, contact the Office of Supportive Programs at (580) 272-5579 or STMProgram@chickasaw.net.

FCA Competitors Camp

June 8-11

Ages 11 to 14

Camp WOW, Gerty, Oklahoma

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) Competitors Camp combines great facilities and activities with the athleticism and competition that defines the FCA ministry. Activities include climbing a wall, zip line, water slide, rope course, obstacle course, the Blob, Bible devotions, upbeat music, topical discussions and more. This is an overnight camp. Transportation is not provided.

For more information, contact Camps and Recreation at (580) 272-5716 or youthcamps@chickasaw.net.

Native American Jr. Invitation Tennis Tournament

June 10

Ages 8 to 18

Ada Tennis Center, Ada, Oklahoma

The Native American Junior Invitational Tennis Tournament allow youth to experience a tournament atmosphere without the pressures of a school or tennis association tournament. It is also a qualifying tournament for Chickasaw youth entering grades seven-12, or ages 12-18, for 10 available spots on the Team Chickasaw tennis team. Transportation is provided.

For more information, contact Camps and Recreation at (580) 272-5716 or youthcamps@chickasaw.net.

Golf Camp

Golf 101- June 12-13 / Ages 8 to 11 or entering grades 3-6

Golf II- June 14-16 / Ages 12 to 18 or entering grades 7-12

Winstar Golf Course, Thackerville, Oklahoma

Golf Camp provides Native American youth the opportunity to enjoy the game of golf while learning life skills, such as honor, integrity and sportsmanship. Instruction for all skill levels is provided by a highly knowledgeable and motivated staff. Golf 101 is a day camp, Golf Camp II is an overnight camp. Transportation is provided.

For more information, contact Camps and Recreation at (580) 272-5716 or youthcamps@chickasaw.net.

Space Camp

June 12-16

Ages 9 to 18

U.S. Space & Rocket Center at Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, Alabama

Space Camp students obtain hands-on training, and learn about the mental, emotional and physical demands astronauts face. Fields of study include engineering, space technology and aerospace science. Transportation is provided.

For more information, contact the Office of Supportive Programs at (580) 272-5579 or STMProgram@chickasaw.net.

Yaakni' Inaalhpisaat Chokma 'The Nation's Laws are Good' Camp

June 12-13

Ages 8 to 14

Chickasaw Nation Judicial Building, Ada, Oklahoma

This two-day camp educates youth on the operations of a tribal court system. Students have the opportunity to meet tribal judges, Supreme Court justices, Chickasaw Lighthorse police officers, Peacemakers and court staff. Students will also get to visit Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET) facility and participate in mock trials. Transportation is not provided.

For more information, contact the Chickasaw Nation Judicial Department.

Chickasaw Cultural Enrichment Family Camp

June 14-19

Chickasaw Families

Treasure Valley, Davis, Oklahoma

This camp is designed to promote the use of the Chickasaw language through language immersion session, games and a variety of cultural activities. This is an overnight camp.

For more information, contact the Chickasaw Nation Language Department at (580) 272-5318.

Native American Jr. Open Golf Tournament

June 17

Ages 8-18

Winstar Golf Course, Thackerville, Oklahoma

The Native American Junior Open allows youth to experience a tournament atmosphere without the pressures of a school or golf association tournament. It is also a qualifying tournament for Chickasaw youth entering grades seven-12, or ages 12-18, for 10 available spots on the Team Chickasaw golf team. Transportation is not provided.

For more information, contact Camps and Recreation at (580) 272-5716 or youthcamps@chickasaw.net.

FCA Xtreme Camp

June 18-22

Ages 15-18

Crosspoint Camp, Kingston, Oklahoma

The camp is for students who want to participate in challenging activities and great fellowship. Campers have the opportunity to water ski, water tube, skeet shoot, rappel, ride horses, compete in huddle competitions, scale a 65-foot climbing tower and experience a high ropes challenge course.

For more information, contact Camps and Recreation at (580) 272-5716 or youthcamps@chickasaw.net.

Chickasaw Lighthorse Police Youth Academy

June 19-22

Ages 9 to 15

Lighthorse Police Department, Ada, Oklahoma

This academy provides an excellent opportunity for youth to explore a career in law enforcement. Academy students will hear presentations from law enforcement personnel and learn life skills, such as teamwork, communication, safety and crime prevention. Transportation is not provided.

For more information, contact the Chickasaw Nation Lighthorse Police Department at (580) 436-1166.

Ikbi Holisso 'Book Creation' Camp

June 21-23

Ages 10 to 18 or entering grades 3-12

Location TBD

This camp will introduce students to the world of book publishing, from concept to writing, illustrating, editing, design and production. The students will be trained and guided through the steps of book creation while they produce a book in digital format. Transportation is not provided.

For more information, contact the Chickasaw Press at (580) 436-7282.

Champions Football Clinic

June 22-24

Ages 8 to 18 or entering grades 3-12

Ada High School, Ada, Oklahoma

At this clinic, a team of veteran coaches and players teach students fundamental football skills. Highlights include an 8-to-1 student to instructor ratio, offensive drills, defensive drills and more. Transportation is provided.

For more information, contact Camps and Recreation at (580) 272-5716 or youthcamps@chickasaw.net.

Champions Cheerleading Clinic

June 23-24

Ages 8 to 18 or entering grades 3-12

Family Life Center, Ada, Oklahoma

At this clinic, a team of Day of Champions cheerleading coaches instructs students on motion, jumps, spirit, rhythm, health and fitness. Students enhance their abilities and learn basic cheerleading fundamentals geared toward their skill levels. Transportation is provided.

For more information, contact Camps and Recreation at (580) 272-5716 or youthcamps@chickasaw.net.

Tanumpo Hosa Apisa 'The Place for Shooting Guns' Camp

July 6-7

Ages 12 to 18

Southern Oklahoma Sportsman's Club, Davis, Oklahoma

This camp features instruction on gun safety and marksmanship techniques. This camp focuses on the disciplines required for Olympic-style target shooting and consists of both classroom instruction and firing practice. Transportation is provided.

For more information, contact Camps and Recreation at (580) 272-5716 or youthcamps@chickasaw.net.

Chickasaw Arts Academy

July 10-22

Ages 8 to 18

East Central University, Ada, Oklahoma

The Chickasaw Arts Academy is an intensive exploration of the various artistic fields. Students begin the summer session July 10 and conclude July 22 with a showcase. The showcase is a two-hour event that offers a brief glimpse of the student projects that were created during the academy. Participants will have the opportunity to gain experience in the following fields of study: 2-D and 3-D visual art, theatre, creative writing, dance, vocal music, music composition, photography, theatre technology, video production, textile design and other subjects. Students are divided into various levels to accommodate specific ages and skills. The academy focuses on Chickasaw and other Southeastern Indian cultures through the fine and performing arts.

For more information, contact the Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities Office at (580) 272-5520 or email artsacademy@chickasaw.net.

Youth Basketball Camp

Girl's Camp- July 10-11 / Ages 8 to 18

Boy's Camp- July 12-13 / Ages 8 to 18

Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Youth Basketball Camp participants learn basketball techniques from high school head coaches, university coaches and current or former university players. This camp ends with a round-robin style tournament. This is an overnight camp. Transportation is provided.

For more information, contact Camps and Recreation at (580) 272-5716 or youthcamps@chickasaw.net.

Hayaka Unta 'Into the Woods' Camp

Fall Camp- Oct. 13-15, 2017

Spring Camp- April 6-8, 2018

Ages 8 to 18 or entering grades 3-12

Camp Goddard, Sulphur, Oklahoma

Hayaka Unta Camp gives Chickasaw youth and their parents or guardians an opportunity to share quality time together while enjoying the natural beauty of the outdoors. This camp offers a variety of exciting and challenging activities, including canoeing, hiking, fishing, archery and camping. This is an overnight camp for parent(s) and children. Transportation is provided.

For more information, contact Camps and Recreation at (580) 272-5716 or youthcamps@chickasaw.net.

Chikashshaat Hoochokoshkomo

Fall Break

Ages 8 to 18

Chickasaw Cultural Center, Sulphur, Oklahoma

This day camp provides students the opportunity to learn the history of and how to play the traditional game of stickball. Students will also learn the fundamentals of lacrosse and participate in stickball and lacrosse drills throughout the camp. Transportation is not provided.

For more information, contact the Language Department at (580) 272-5592 or email languagedepartment@chickasaw.net.

Halloween Lock-in

Oct. 20-21

Ages 8 to 13 or grades 3-6

Andy alligator's Fun Park, Norman, Oklahoma

This Halloween-themed lock-in allows students to participate in mini-bowling, go-karts, batting cages, mini-golf, a rock climbing wall, bumper cars, arcade games and a variety of other fun activities throughout the night. This is an overnight camp. Transportation is provided.

For more information, contact Camps and Recreation at (580) 272-5716 or youthcamps@chickasaw.net.

Winter Baseball Clinic

Dec. 21-22

Ages 8 to 18

D-Bat Sports Plex, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

This clinic is designed to teach essential life skills, such as dedication, goal setting and teamwork, while teaching the basic skills of baseball. C amp instruction focuses on improving the fundamentals of hitting, pitching and fielding. Campers learn how goal setting and self-discipline improve playing ability and help in everyday life. Transportation is provided.

For more information, contact Camps and Recreation at (580) 272-5716 or youthcamps@chickasaw.net.

Winter Softball Clinic

Dec. 28-29

Ages 8 to 18 or entering grades 3-12

D-Bat Sports Plex, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

This camp focuses on improving the fundamentals of hitting, pitching, fielding, conditioning and teamwork. Camp instruction is led by high school and college-level coaches and players, who are dedicated to helping students improve their softball skills. Transportation is provided.

For more information, contact Camps and Recreation at (580) 272-5716 or youthcamps@chickasaw.net.

Submitting an application does not guarantee selection to the camp. Applicants should be aware once acceptance to a youth services event has been determined, attendance is required. If circumstances prevent attendance, selection for future events may be hindered.

For more information contact Camps and Recreation at (580) 272-5716 or youthcamps@chickasaw.net.

Additional information is available at www.chickasaw.net/youthcamps.

Yaakni' Apiisachi 'Caretakers of the Land' camps in April, May

KULLIHOMA - Yaakni' Apiisachi (Caretakers of the Land) Day Camps will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Kullihoma throughout March, April and May.

Students ages 13-16 are eligible to apply. Lunch will be provided.

These youth environmental education classes are hosted by Chickasaw Nation Environmental Services.

To promote a better understanding of environmental protection issues, participants will learn the importance of taking care of the environment through a true hands-on experience.

Students will take trips to local hiking/backpacking trails for a day. The group will hike out for a short trip and set up a camp where the leaders will teach and demonstrate skills to reduce environmental impacts, as well as learning about outdoor emergencies, first aid and survival.

Yaakni' Apiisachi Day Camp dates are: Friday, March 10; Monday, March 13; Tuesday, March 14; Wednesday, March 15; Thursday, March 16; Friday, March 17; Friday, April 14; Friday, May 5; and Thursday, May 25.

This hiking experience is free and open to the public. Chickasaw preference will be given. Camp size is limited.

For more information, or to register, contact Chickasaw Nation Environmental Services at (580) 272-5412.

Generation Indigenous Initiative seeks to knock down barriers to Indian student success

Tribe lands grant targeting college, career students

ADA, Okla. – The Chickasaw Nation has received a four-year grant to boost Native American education resources in Pontotoc and Carter counties in Oklahoma.

Native American Community Programs (NYCP) supports partnerships between tribes and public school administrators. The mission is to create programs that enhance academic achievement and school success for Native American children.

The primary goal of programs initiated under the grant will focus on student college and career success. Other aspects will provide on-site licensed counselors and social workers to assist students. Tutoring, family engagement, truancy prevention, cultural and family enrichment programs and student leadership opportunities are also included.

Grant funds were provided as part of former-President Obama's Generation Indigenous (Gen-I) Initiative. Launched in 2014, Gen-I created a community of culturally appropriate strategies to overcome barriers Native American students face in college and career preparation.

NYCP programs work to improve education opportunities for students in preschool through high school. The Chickasaw Nation program will focus on 14 school districts.

Services will assist students beyond common offerings like tutoring. Direct educational and family services are a focus of the program. Issues that may be causing educational struggles and truancy including lack of transportation, bullying, undiagnosed hearing and vision problems and more are taken into account.

College and career readiness will be supported with test preparation courses, concurrent college enrollment opportunities, college and vocational school admissions assistance and career guidance.

More than 7,000 Native American students will have the opportunity to utilize the resources provided by the grant funded program.

Future plans for grant programs will include a student leadership component that will create a collaboration of student leaders from the various school districts.

Student leadership is a large part of the Gen-I Initiative. A component students and other community leaders can participate in now is the Gen-I Youth Challenge. The Challenge is a call for engagement with youth to do something positive in their communities. To learn how to accept the challenge, visit www.cnay.org/Challenge.

Three other tribal organizations in Oklahoma were awarded NYCP grants including the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Citizen Potawatomie Nation and Stilwell Public Schools, where a population containing 60 percent Cherokee students is served.

CONTRIBUTED BY Jennifer Jones, Public Affairs.

RANCHER | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of the 19th Century - Chickasaw rancher Montford T. Johnson.

Orphaned at a young age, Johnson survived great hardship and tragedy to establish a vast ranching empire along the famous Chisholm Trail, the storied cattle highway of the American West.

"The Chickasaw Rancher" will tell of Johnson's time among settlers, cowboys, Indian fighters, bandits and fur traders.

Armed with a Colt revolver and dreams of a better life, he had the grit, determination and courage to tame what seemed an infinite wilderness, while always maintaining respect for the Native people who lived there.

Production on "The Chickasaw Rancher" is planned for mid-2017 and casting calls will begin in March.

A nationwide search for Native American actors to star in the Chickasaw Nation Productions film is under way. Filming will also offer an opportunity for Chickasaw citizens to serve as extras in the film.

Open casting calls will be conducted at the following locations:

Culver City, Calif. - Saturday, March 18
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Beverly Holloway Casting
5721 W. Slauson Ave., Suite 100

Oklahoma City - Saturday, April 1
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Remington Park
One Remington Place

Ada, Okla. – Sunday, April 2
11:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Chickasaw Nation Department of Housing Office Building
111 Rosedale Road

Grand Prairie, Texas – Saturday, April 8
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Lone Star Park
1000 Lone Star Parkway

Tulsa, Okla. – Saturday, April 22
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Location to be determined

"The Chickasaw Rancher" is the third feature film by Chickasaw Nation Productions, which specializes in sharing and preserving the story of Chickasaws who have made significant impacts in the world.

Other Chickasaw Nation Productions films include "Pearl," the remarkable story of a Chickasaw girl who became the youngest licensed pilot in the U.S., and "Te Ata," the story of a Chickasaw storyteller who earned international fame sharing Native heritage and culture.

Other Chickasaw Nation Productions projects include the Chickasaw Heritage Series' "First Encounter," which follows the tribe's initial contact with European explorers in 1540.

For updates on casting calls and other opportunities to participate in the film, or to sign up to receive the e-newsletter visit ChickasawRancher.com.

Follow The Chickasaw Rancher on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for updates and information.

'Kite Fly' coming up at Chickasaw White House

EMET, Okla. - The Chickasaw White House will host the annual Kite Fly celebrating the beloved pastime of Governor Douglas H. Johnston and family. Families are invited to spend the day flying kites at the historic home from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., March 24, 25, 31 and April 1, 8 and 9.

For more information about any of the upcoming events or tours, contact the Chickasaw White House at (580) 371-9835, or visit www.Chickasaw.net/WhiteHouse.

The Chickasaw White House is located at 6379 East Mansion Road in Milburn, Okla.

Tribe offers help to earn HiSET diploma

The Chickasaw Nation offers a number of ways for citizens to attain their education goals. Tutoring, testing and adult learning test preparation are just a few of those ways.

The tribe offers a chance for students seeking a high school equivalency (HiSET) diploma. A high school equivalency testing program is available to Chickasaw citizens, other Native Americans and non-native test takers in both Ada and Ardmore, Okla. Test takers must be at least 16 years old.

The Chickasaw Nation Adult Learning Program provides academic assistance to adults living within the Chickasaw Nation who want to prepare for the high school equivalency test.

The learning program serves all adults ages 18 and older. Preference is given first to Chickasaw citizens, then to other Native Americans with a valid CDIB and referring agency.

Outside Chickasaw Nation boundaries, the adult learning program provides the cost of HiSET testing fees for Chickasaw citizens.

Classes are located in Ada and Ardmore.

The Chickasaw Nation Student Tutoring Reimbursement Program provides Chickasaw students funds for tutoring assistance to improve academic performance.

Eligible students in grades one through 12 must be on an individual education plan (IEP) or at risk of failing the subject for which tutoring is being requested. A referral letter from a teacher or school official must be provided.

Applications can be found at https://www.chickasaw.net/Services/Student-Tutoring-Reimbursement-Program.

For more information, call (580) 421-7711.

CONTRIBUTED BY Jennifer Jones, Public Affairs.

Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame Jim Thorpe Award

Gov. Bill Anoatubby presented the Jim Thorpe Award at the Feb. 7 Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City. At left is 2016 Jim Thorpe Award recipient Adoree' Jackson, of the University of Southern California. At right is 2013 Jim Thorpe Award recipient Darqueze Dennard, who earned the award at Michigan State and now plays for the NFL's Cincinnati Bengals. The Jim Thorpe Award, named for Sac and Fox athlete and multi-sport legend Jim Thorpe, is awarded annually to the top defensive back in college football.

Ballroom, tap teachers needed

Chickasaw Nation Dance Studio instructors sought

Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities is accepting applications for Chickasaw Nation Dance Studio instructors.

Instructors are needed in areas of tap and ballroom dance.

Please include the following information in a letter of interest:

1) Desired teaching level: beginner, intermediate, advanced, semi-professional, professional. Children or adults.

2) A brief description of training and experience.

3) A brief paragraph describing your teaching philosophy.

4) Resume/vita.

5) Examples of your work are highly recommended.

For more information, or to apply, contact David Pershica at david.pershica@chickasaw.net.

Chickasaw West gathering set for June 3 in California

SANTEE, Calif. - The annual Chickasaw West gathering at Santee Lakes is set for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, June 3.

The gathering is organized by Chickasaw West, a group of California Chickasaws.

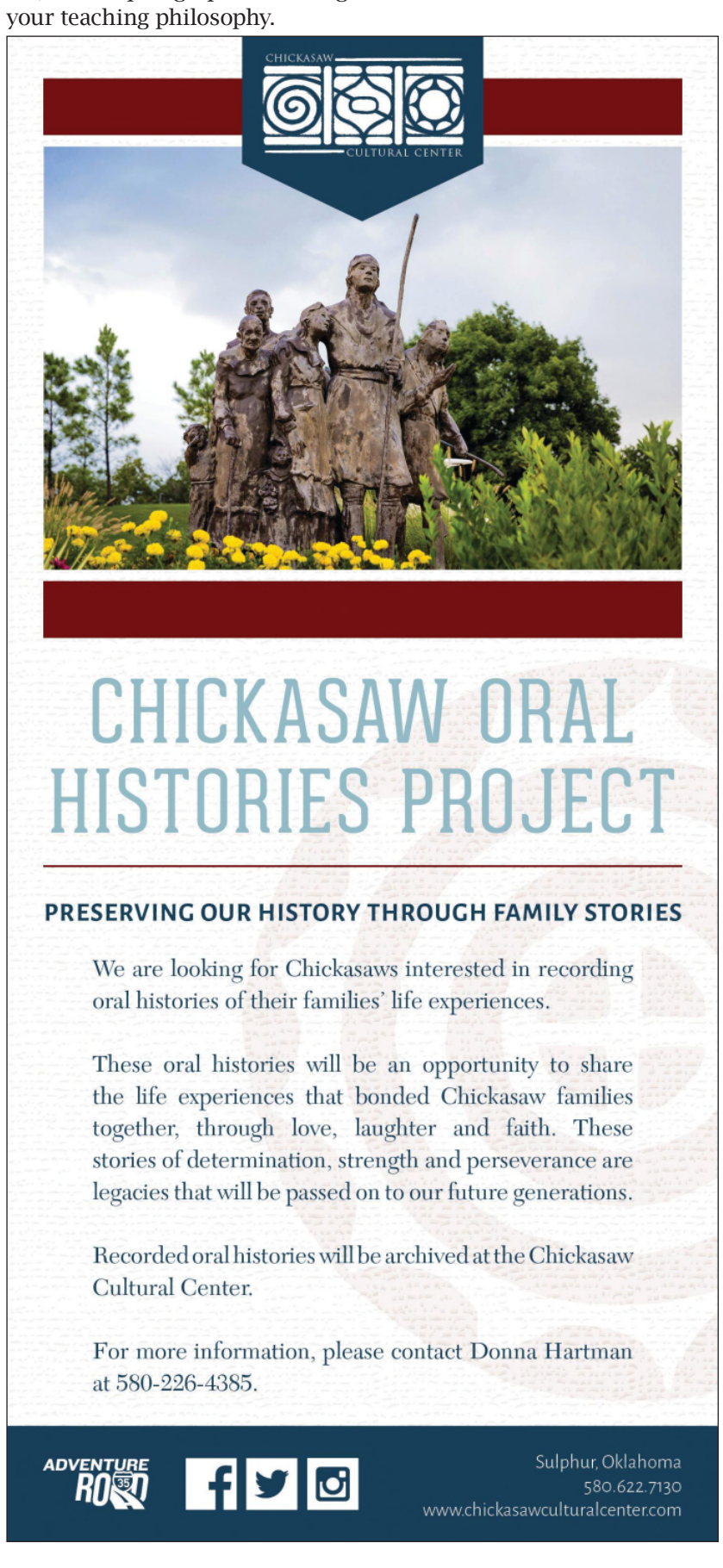
The gathering will feature a number of Chickasaw legislators.

An entrance fee of $5 per vehicle will be collected. Hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages will be served at noon. Organizers ask that attendees please bring a food dish to share.

Lawn chairs are recommended. There are sheltered areas in case of rain or hot weather. Fishing, paddle boat and canoe rentals are available.

Santee Lakes is within one hour of a number of San Diego attractions. You may call Santee Lakes for information about the area and for directions.

For more information, contact Sharon Tandy at (818) 985-8392 or (818) 378-3295.


CHICKASAW
CULTURAL CENTER
CHICKASAW ORAL HISTORIES PROJECT
PRESERVING OUR HISTORY THROUGH FAMILY STORIES
We are looking for Chickasaws interested in recording oral histories of their families' life experiences.
These oral histories will be an opportunity to share the life experiences that bonded Chickasaw families together, through love, laughter and faith. These stories of determination, strength and perseverance are legacies that will be passed on to our future generations.
Recorded oral histories will be archived at the Chickasaw Cultural Center.
For more information, please contact Donna Hartman at 580-226-4385.
ADVENTURE ROAD 35
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580.622.7130
www.chickasawculturalcenter.com

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Walk-ins Welcome!!! Affordable!
Stop Paying High Bank Fees!!!
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A message from Chickasaw Princess Julie Underwood

Julie Underwood
2016-17 Chickasaw Princess

Chukma! Saholhchifoat Julie Underwood.

Hello! My name is Julie Underwood. I am your 2016-2017 Chickasaw Princess. The past few months have been fun and exciting, and many memories have been made. I cannot wait to see what the rest of the year has in store for us!

In November, we went to the Homeland. It was important and exciting trip. We learned about our history and culture and visited many sites that are a vital part of the Chickasaw Nation history. The trip also gave us the opportunity to bond and make memories we will never forget!

In December, we attended the Children's Christmas Celebrations in Oklahoma City and Tishomingo. We met many children who were excited to meet Santa and to receive a teddy bear! It was fun and made me happy to meet them and see their smiling faces!

We have also performed the Lord's Prayer and helped serve lunch at the Elder's Thanksgiving and Christmas luncheons. It is always great to be able to meet and spend valuable time with our Chickasaw elders. I love hearing their stories and learning anything I can from them.

Representing the Chickasaw Nation as your 2016-2017 Chickasaw Princess is an honor. I will do my best to represent the Chickasaw Nation throughout this year. I look forward to our upcoming events, all the people we will meet, places we will visit and the new things we will learn.

Yakoke!
Julie Underwood
Your 2016-2017
Chickasaw Princess

Tribe nurtures students through special partnerships with colleges, universities

The Chickasaw Nation has engaged in several special partnerships with Oklahoma colleges and universities. The mission of the partnerships is to expand opportunity and offer cultural support for Chickasaw students in higher education.

More than 5,000 Chickasaw students now receive higher education grants, scholarships and incentives. For a new student, maneuvering the financial options, learning class schedules and balancing the demands of course work can be challenging.

The Chickasaw Nation Chokka' Kilimpi' Recruitment and Retention Program offers outreach at Oklahoma City metro college campuses to help keep Chickasaw students on track. Coordinators are available on campus at the University of Oklahoma, University of Central Oklahoma and Oklahoma City Community College.

"The Chickasaw Nation recognizes the need to support students in their pursuit of higher education," Chokka' Kilimpi' director Randi Sunray said. "A recruitment and retention coordinator is located on these campuses for 20 hours each week to assist our scholars in successfully completing their degree through academic, social, cultural and career activities throughout the school year."

Coordinators offer academic monitoring and support with frequent meetings, group study sessions and additional resources as needed. They plan social and cultural events like basket weaving, stickball games and movie nights.

"If a student builds a connection to the campus and develops supports, they are more likely to continue and complete their studies," Mrs. Sunray said. "Our coordinators strengthen these ties."

In 2016, the program served more than 700 Chickasaw students completing higher education. Coordinators facilitated collaborations with campus Native American Student Associations (NASA) and other university departments to host meetings, host cultural events and complete joint projects.

"We continue to foster relationships with these institutions so that we can build a circle of support for our scholars," Mrs. Sunray said.

Sovereign Nations in Cowboy Country

Approximately 70 miles north of the Oklahoma City metro area, the Chickasaw Nation shares in a unique partnership with Oklahoma State University and other sovereign tribes. The OSU Center for Sovereign Nations celebrated a year of success in August 2016. It is an important gathering place for Native American students.

The center is a hub of connection for student leaders in Native American organizations, including NASA. Weekly luncheons, coffee talks, leadership meetings and other events hosted through NASA partnerships give students plenty of networking and educational opportunities.

Student leaders guide peers through navigating resources, providing a place for cultural and

SEE **PARTNERSHIP,** PAGE 16

Kullihoma turkey hunt applications due March 20

The deadline to apply for a special permit for the Adult Spring Turkey Hunt and the Youth Spring Turkey Hunt at Kullihoma is fast approaching.

Permit requests may be picked up at the Chickasaw Nation Conservation and General Ranger Department, 221 N. Rennie, Ada, Okla., or you can call (580) 310-6466 to request an application. All permit requests must be completed and returned to the department no later than 5 p.m. on March 20.

Dates for the Spring Turkey Hunt are April 6 through May 6. Toms may be taken with a bow and arrow or shotgun.

There is a 1-tom limit at Kullihoma.

Dates for the Special Youth Hunt are April 1 and 2. All youth hunters must be 17-years old or younger and are encouraged to have completed the Oklahoma Hunter Education Class. Youth hunters must be accompanied at all times by an adult during the hunt. Youth hunters may take one tom with bow and arrow or shotgun.

All harvested turkeys must be reported to the Ranger Department, (580) 310-6466.

For questions, please call the Ranger Department at (580) 310-6466.

Special Permit Request

Spring Turkey Hunt on Tribal Land --- Kullihoma

Name:_____ **Phone:**_____

Address:_____ **City:**_____

State:_____ **Zip Code:**_____ **Vehicle:** Car--- or--- Truck

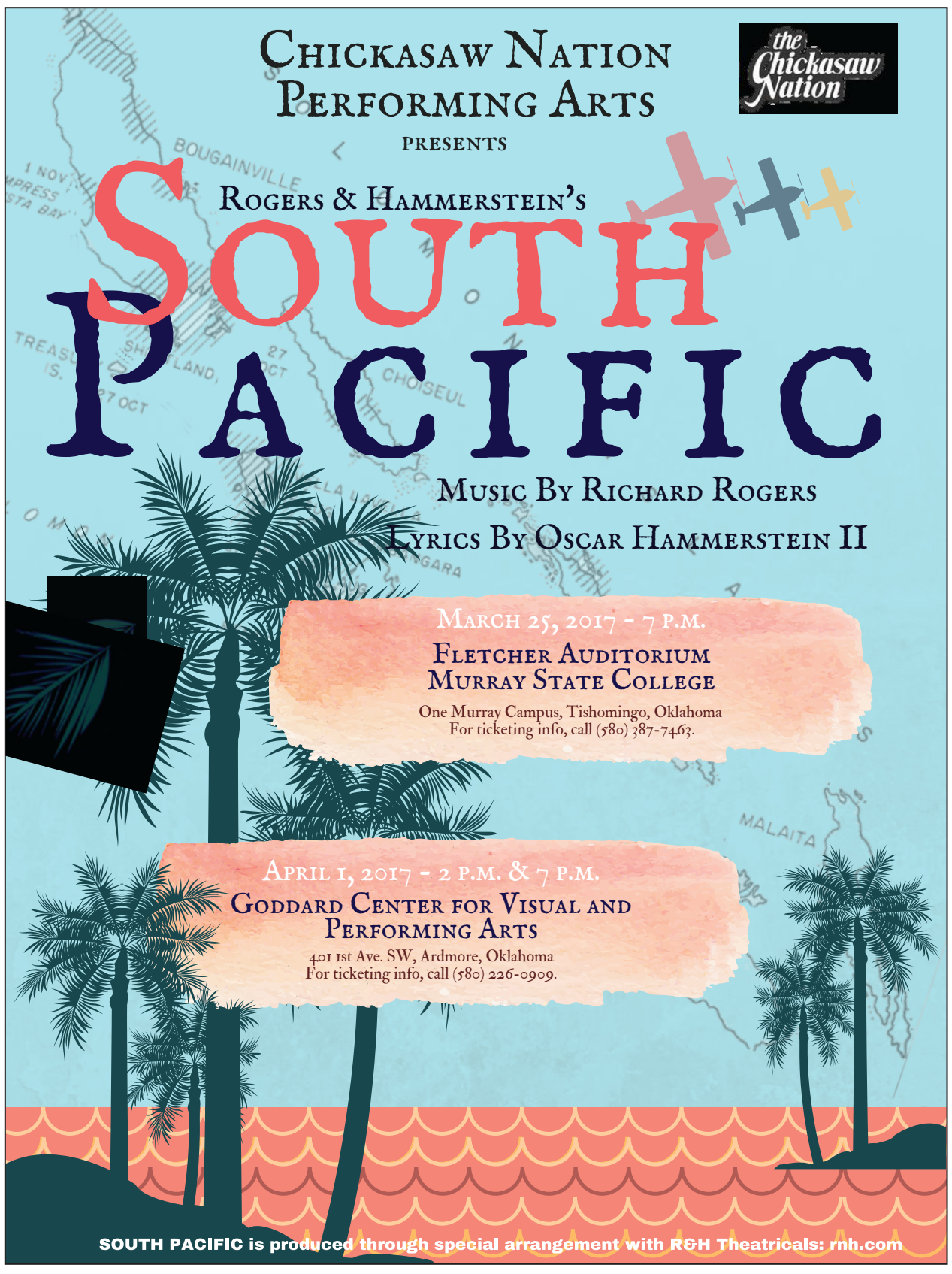
Make:_____ **Model:**_____ **Color:**_____

Year:_____ **Tag #:**_____ **Emergency Contacts#**_____

Must include copy of your CDIB

If the request if for a youth please designate by writing ***YOUTH*** *at the top of request.*

CHICKASAW CITIZENS
UPDATE
YOUR
ADDRESS
Update your contact information to stay connected and receive important information from the Chickasaw Nation.
Having a current address helps us respond when citizens are affected by natural disasters or weather emergencies.
To access a change of address form online, visit www.Chickasaw.net/AddressChange or call toll free at (888) 661-0137


Chickasaw Nation Performing Arts
the Chickasaw Nation
PRESENTS
Rogers & Hammerstein's
SOUTH PACIFIC
Music By Richard Rogers
Lyrics By Oscar Hammerstein II
March 25, 2017 - 7 p.m.
Fletcher Auditorium
Murray State College
One Murray Campus, Tishomingo, Oklahoma
For ticketing info, call (580) 387-7463.
April 1, 2017 - 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.
Goddard Center for Visual and Performing Arts
401 1st Ave. SW, Ardmore, Oklahoma
For ticketing info, call (580) 226-0909.
SOUTH PACIFIC is produced through special arrangement with R&H Theatricals: rnh.com

Join us for this annual event!
Three Sisters
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Planting demonstrations and tours of our gardens await, including butterfly gardens! Explore a traditional Chickasaw village and enjoy storytelling, stickball, archery and more.
The "Three Sisters" are corn, beans and squash and are planted together to help each other grow.
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ChickasawCulturalCenter.com
ADVENTURE ROAD

JANUARY 2016 LEGISLATIVE MINUTES

CHICKASAW NATION TRIBAL LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION
Legislature Building
Ada, Oklahoma
January 13, 2017

AGENDA ITEM #1 CALL MEETING TO ORDER
Chairperson David Woerz called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
AGENDA ITEM #2 ROLL CALL
Members present: Beth Alexander, Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, David Woerz
Members absent: Connie Barker, Dean McManus, Steve Woods
Staff present: Doretta Sellers, Recording Secretary, Harold Stick, Sergeant-At-Arms
Robert Cheadle, Legislative Counsel
Guests present: Dusk Monetathci, Michael L. Wingo
AGENDA ITEM #3 INVOCATION
Invocation was given by Mr. Perkins.
AGENDA ITEM #4 READING OF MINUTES - December 16, 2016
A motion was made by Ms. Briggs and seconded by Mrs. Alexander to approve the minutes of December 16, 2016.
Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, David Woerz
10 yes votes
The motion to approve the minutes of December 16, 2016 carried unanimously.
AGENDA ITEM #5: UNFINISHED BUSINESS
There was no unfinished business.
AGENDA ITEM #6 NEW BUSINESS (Comments from Citizens)
There was no new business to discuss or comments from citizens.
AGENDA ITEM #7 ADJOURNMENT
The Legislative Session adjourned at 9:02 a.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Toby Perkins, Secretary
Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislature
Prepared by:
Doretta Sellers, Recording Secretary
Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislature

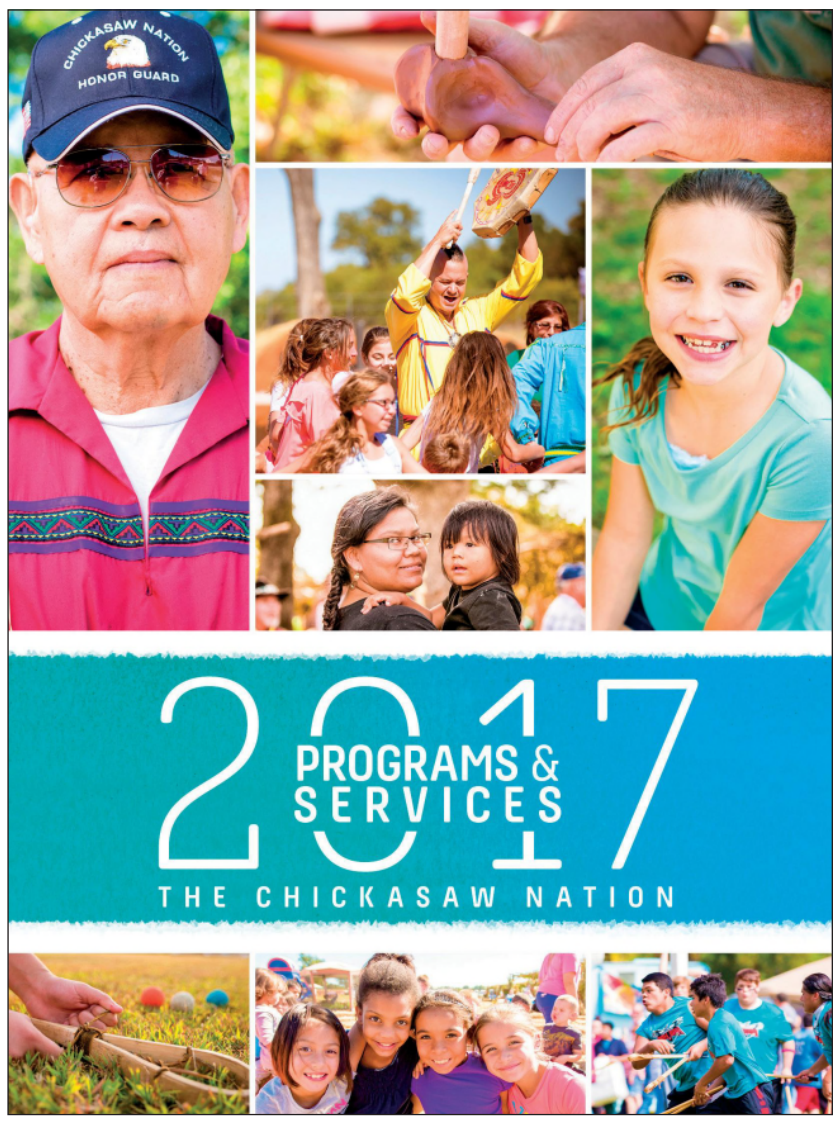
FEBRUARY 2017 RESOLUTIONS

General Resolution Number 34-013
Public Roadway and Utility Easement in Johnston County
Explanation: This resolution authorizes and approves an a perpetual public roadway and utility easement for the purpose of constructing and maintaining a county road across the Whitehouse tract in Johnston County, Oklahoma. This is a joint project between the Chickasaw Nation Roads Department and Johnston County.
Property Location: Whitehouse, Douglas H. Johnston home
Use: To be utilized as perpetual public roadway and utility easement
Presented By: Land Development Committee
Yes Votes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, Steve Woods
Absent: Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee of the Whole
February 13, 2017
Present: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Lisa J. Billy, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, Steve Woods
Absent: Linda Briggs, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, David Woerz
No Quorum
Election Rules & Regulations Ad Hoc Committee
February 2, 2017
Present: Beth Alexander, Tim Colbert, Scott Wood, David Woerz
Absent: Connie Barker, Dean McManus
Finance Committee
February 13, 2017
Present: Connie Barker, Toby Perkins
Absent: Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Shana Hammond, Nancy Elliott
No Quorum
Health Care Committee
February 6, 2017
Present: Shana Hammond, Beth Alexander, Lisa J. Billy, Katie Case, Scott Wood, David Woerz
Absent: Connie Barker
Land Development Committee
February 6, 2017
Present: Beth Alexander, Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, David Woerz
Absent: Dean McManus, Steve Woods

2017 Programs & Services Directories now available



The 2017 Programs and Services Directories are now available for download at www.Chickasaw.net/Services. The directories contain information about the many tribal programs and services available to Chickasaw citizens. The Chickasaw Programs and Services Apps are also available for Apple and android devices. The apps provide fast and easy access to Chickasaw Nation Programs and Services information while you are on the go.

Bow Making Classes
With Elihu Johnson (Chickasaw Citizen), Owner, Enlightened Art
Email bowclass12@gmail.com or call
(580) 429-3563 for classes and availability
$65

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619.232.4374 | CONNECT@HESHONE.COM

It's time once again to feature our Chickasaw High School Seniors

The *Chickasaw Times* would like to congratulate each of you on your accomplishment by featuring you in our May 2017 issue.

Graduates can submit their biography and photo by email: times.chickasaw@chickasaw.net or by completing the form below and mailing it to us with the **original photo** no later than **Monday, April 17, 2017**. All mailed photos will be returned, so please include a return address.

Senior Profile Form

(Please PRINT clearly)

NOTICE:
Email (preferred):
Information ***(300 words or less)*** **and photo can be emailed to times.chickasaw@chickasaw.net.**

Mail:
Please send form and an original photo (not a photo copy). Please include a return address so the original photo can be returned. Also include a contact number or email.

Name _____

Home town _____

High School _____

Parents/guardians _____
(If parents are deceased or divorced, please indicate)

Grandparents _____

Information about graduate *(include school activities, extracurricular activities, future plans, etc.)*

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Please mail your completed form to
Chickasaw Times, P.O. Box 1548, Ada, OK 74821

SATURDAY EVENING MOVIES
CHICKASAW CULTURAL CENTER
ALL FILMS SHOWING IN THE ANOLI' THEATER
SHOWS START AT 6:30 P.M.
APRIL 1 MOANA (PG)
APRIL 8 SULLY (PG-13)
APRIL 15 JASON BOURNE (PG-13)
APRIL 22 DEEPWATER HORIZON (PG-13)
APRIL 29 MAJOR PAYNE (PG-13)
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$2 PER CHILD • $3 PER ADULT OR
$5 MOVIE DEAL: INCLUDES TICKET, POPCORN & DRINK
CHILDREN YOUNGER THAN 16 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN.
WWW.CHICKASAWCULTURALCENTER.COM

William James Ackerman

William James Ackerman was born March 5, 1958 to Colleen Yvonne and Jimmy Wayne Ackerman at Swedish Hospital, Seattle, Wash.. He died Jan. 11, 2017 after a long illness.

He married Geraldine "Geri" Marie Goodnight, also of Chickasaw descent. She died in 1992. They had two daughters, Janelle Yvonne born in 1988, and Robin Nichole born in 1990. His son, Christopher Allen, was born in 1995.

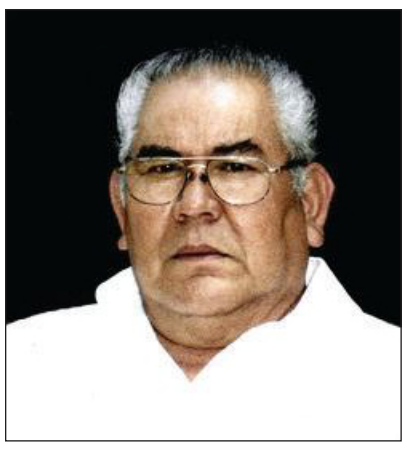
He is survived by his parents; his children; two grandchildren, Tracen and Analeigh; and many loving aunts, uncles and cousins in California; and Patricia Doyle, who cared for him throughout his illness until his death.

Mr. Ackerman attended Golden Gate Academy, Berkley, Calif., and truck driving school in San Leandro, Calif. He was an overland truck driver throughout the United States and Canada.

He enjoyed his guitar collection and shared an infectious sense of humor with others. He was a registered Chickasaw citizen and lived most of his life in Chipley, Florida.

He leaves two dogs Papa and Bandit.

Curtis S. Bond



Curtis S. Bond, 75, a longtime Atoka, Okla., resident, died January 18, 2017 at his residence in Atoka.

He was born August 23, 1941, to Raymond and Mary (Berger) Bond, at Ada, Okla.

He graduated from Ada High School.

He was married to Beverly (Graham) Bond. They had 48 wonderful years together. He was a devoted husband, father and Poppy.

He was a master craftsman/carpenter by trade who loved deer hunting, fishing, and spending time with his grandchildren. He also enjoyed telling stories, especially about deer hunting. He was very proud of his tribal heritage.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Raymond and Mary (Berger) Bond; and a brother, Loyd Bond.

He is survived by his wife, Beverly Bond, of the home; daughters, Valleri Bond and husband, Jerry Fackler, of Round Rock, Texas, and Traci Westervelt and husband, Ron, of Denison, Texas; granddaughters, Bailey Westervelt and Riley Westervelt, both of Denison; a grandson, Tanner Westervelt, of Dension; sisters, Mary Hyden, of Broken Arrow, Okla., and Sammie Montgomery and husband, Larry, of Checotah, Okla.; brother, Kenneth Bond and wife, Lee, of Byng, Okla.; brother-in-law, Hugh Graham and wife, Denise, of Atoka; and nieces, nephews, other relatives and many dear friends.

Condolences may be sent to the family by emailing Brown@Atoka.net

L.D. 'Rastus' Love

L.D. "Rastus" Love, 84, a resident of Calera, Okla., left this life, at his home, Sunday, January 29, 2017. He was born in Utica, Okla., October 8, 1932 to Hercules Martin and Alice Mrytle (Stanford) Love.

He married Melba Kathleen Wingfield Jan. 14, 1967 at the Achille Baptist Church, Achille, Okla.

Mr. Love was a welder by trade, but his true love was being in the pasture tending to his cows and horses.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Hercules and Alice Love; brothers, D.C. Love, Sam Love and wife, Ozetta, Howard Love and wife, Edna, and H.M. Love; brother-in-law, Grady Lewis; nephew, Joe Woods; great-nephew, Jerry Love; and great-niece, April Washington.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 50 years, Melba, of the home; son, Eric Love and wife, Emily, of Calera, Okla.; a sister, Wanda Lewis, of Calera; grandchildren, John Luke Love and Whitlee Jo, of Calera; nieces, Belinda Irvin and husband, Keven, of Dumas, Texas, Debbie Woods and Kim Ford, both of Bokchito, Okla.; nephew, Charles Love and wife, Jeanette, of Pampa, Texas; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

The family respectfully suggest that in lieu of flowers donations be made in his name to the New Life Assembly of God Church Building Fund, PO Box 364, Calera, OK 74730.

A church service was February 1 at the New Life Assembly of God Church in Calera with Pastor Stephen Biggerstaff and Pastor David Sanders officiating. Burial followed in the Garden of Memories Cemetery in Colbert, Okla.

Family and friends may send online condolences and view tributes at www.holmescoffeymurray.com.

Roy Benjamin Pershica

Roy Benjamin Pershica, 86, died Feb. 13, 2017 at Madill, Okla. Graveside services were Feb. 15 at Enville (OK) Cemetery, with Roy Kinsley officiating.

Mr. Pershica was born June 20, 1930 in Enville, Okla., the sixth of eleven children born to Fred Pershica and Josephine (Pike) Pershica.

He proudly served in the U.S. Navy for seven years and then went back to Kingston High School to complete his education. He was of the Baptist faith.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a daughter, Jenny; brothers, M.F., Don Joe, and LaVern; sisters, Lucille Vandenberg, Mary Gibbs and Lona Mae Pershica.

He is survived by a brother, Haskell, of California; sisters Tena Swader, Sally Glynn, of Texas, and LaFern Johnson, of Oklahoma City; and many nephews and nieces, too numerous to list along with many other relatives and friends.

Charles Scott Perry

Services for Charles Scott Perry, 78, of Ada, Okla., were Feb. 17, 2017 at Criswell Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Vicki Collins officiating. Burial followed in Rosedale Cemetery. The Chickasaw Honor Guard conducted military honors at the cemetery.

Mr. Perry passed away Feb. 10, 2017 at a local hospital. He was born March 11, 1938 to Johnson and Sophia Reeder Perry at Ardmore, Okla. He and his family moved to this area in 1948 from Arkansas City, Kan. He attended Hayes Grade School in Ada and graduated from Ada High School in 1956 and East Central University, Ada with a degree in accounting.

He married Kay Leonard Jan. 30, 1966 at Ada. Mr. Perry was a Certified Public Accountant and served as the chief accountant for Valley View Hospital for many years and also worked for Horne and Company. He and Kay were longtime owners of Bob's Bar-B-Que Restaurant in Ada. Mr. Perry was affiliated with the First Christian Church in Ada. He served in the U. S. Air Force for four years with the Strategic Air Command. Mr. Perry loved genealogy and fossil hunting.

Survivors include his wife, Kay, of the home; son, Jeffry Scott Perry, of Denton, Texas; a brother, Bob Perry and his wife, Annie, of Tuscumbia, Ala.; a brother, Kirk Perry and his wife, Kay, of Ada; sister-in-law, Sallie Perry, of Broken Arrow, Okla.; brother-in-law, Dr. Robert Leonard and wife, Adrienne, of Edmond, Okla.; and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Norman Perry.

Bearers were Frances Crabtree, Francis Bourke, Jason Perry, Chris Perry and Dr. Robert Leonard. Honorary bearer will be Tony Perry.

Edith Ardinia (Ned) Mobbs

Edith Ardinia (Ned) Mobbs, age 80, a longtime Atoka (OK) County resident, who lived the last few months at the Mary Hurley Manor, Coalgate, Okla., passed away February 17, 2017 at Coalgate. Services were February 21, at Brown's Funeral Chapel, Atoka, with Rev. Richard Magby officiating. Interment was in Bentley Cemetery, Atoka.

Mrs. Mobbs was born March 30, 1936, to Abe and Lena (Carr) Ned at Lawton, Okla.

She went to grade school in Arizona and McCarty in Coal County. She also attended Byng Vocational School of Practical Nursing and graduated in 1974, along with her sister Nina Johnston.

Mrs. Mobbs worked as a LPN for over 30 years at Coalgate, Canaday and Atoka Colonial Nursing Homes. She also worked at Blue Bell Western and Valley View Hospital in Ada.

She married Alvin Vernon Cagle Sr. until 1977. She later married Marion Mobbs July of 1978 in Arkansas. She is preceded in death by both husbands.

She was a member of Hillcrest Baptist Church. She enjoyed going to the Choctaw Nation Senior Citizen Center and other Choctaw Nation activities. She enjoyed scrapbooking, she never missed her grandchildren's ballgames, dance recitals, or birthday parties. Her family and grandchildren meant everything to her.

She is survived by Alvin Cagle and wife Faye, of Coalgate; grandchildren, Jason Cagle and wife, Amy, of Morris, Okla., Shane Cagle and wife, Bradi, of Coalgate, Chey Anne Clifft and husband, Jade, of McAlester, Okla., Rachel Wood and husband, Jeremy, of Coalgate; a sister Betty Perrie of Shawnee, Okla.; great-grandchildren Kaden and Briley Cagle, Gage, Garrett, Gavin Keith McMichael, Gavin Hayden and Ashton Cagle, Cashin and Hazin Clifft, Parker Wood; step-children Michael Mobbs and wife, Glenda, of Bentley, Okla., Mark Mobbs and wife, Vickie, of Atoka, Kristy Mobbs and husband Keith Sutherland, of Atoka; eight step-grandchildren; numerous step-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and very special friend, Ethel Wood, of Atoka.

She was preceded in death by her parents Abe and Lena (Carr) Ned; Alvin Vernon Cagle Sr. and Marion Mobbs; sisters Ozella Dayton, Doris Kent, Bobbie Simmons, Nina Johnston, Lahoma Boykin, Maxine Ned; and brothers George Ned and Dennis Ned

Bearers were Jeremy Wood, Jade Clifft, Jason Cagle, Shane Cagle, Michael "Bubba" Mobbs, Gavin Cagle, Kaden Cagle

Honorary bearers were Gary Dority, Mickey Elliott and Robin Boykin.

Condolences may be sent to the family at Browns@atoka.net

Betty Jane Perrier

Betty Jane Perrier, 91, of Shawnee, Okla., died Sunday, February 19, 2017 at her home. Graveside services were Feb. 24 at Ft. Gibson National Cemetery, Ft. Gibson, Okla., with Paula Carney officiating.

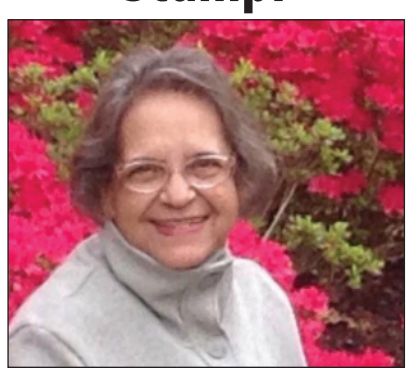
Mrs. Perrier was born Nov. 13, 1925 in Oklahoma City to Abe Ned and Lena (Carr) Ned. She was the oldest living out of 7 girls and 2 boys. The children were full-bood Chickasaw/Choctaw. Her younger sister, Edith Mobbs, of Coalgate, Oklahoma died Feb. 17, 2017.

She married Roger Perrier, who preceded her in death in 1994. She worked most of her life as a health care provider. She enjoyed sewing, entertaining friends and family at her home, and spending time with her grandchildren. She was fun loving, hospitable, giving and patient.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; nine siblings; a grandson, Nicholas Bright; and a son-in-law, Joe Davidson.

She is survived by five daughters, Shirley Greenfield and husband, Dwight, of Shawnee, Edith Arlene Smith and husband, Howard, of Coalgate, Wanda Davidson, of Ada, Okla., Jennifer Murray and husband, Tommy, of Mustang, Okla., and Nancy Cohin, and husband Bill, of Ada; nine grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren; six great-great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews, other family and friends.

Claudia Gayle Stumpf



Claudia Gayle Stumpf passed into the blessed arms of Jesus, Feb. 1, 2017. She was born Dec. 26, 1938 in Tishomingo, Okla., to Raymon and Christine Haley (deceased).

Mrs. Stumpf was 1/4 Chickasaw. Her maternal grandfather, Ben Claude Burris, was an original enrollee of the Chickasaw Tribe.

She was an avid gardener who loved her family and her cats (Rose and Cloud). She also loved reading, writing short stories, and scrapbooking.

She was preceded in death by two great-grandchildren, Brayden and Christopher.

She is survived by her husband Mike Stumpf; a sister Shirley Rudolph; children Barbara Sterrenberg, Sandra Terry, Paula Kilgore, Chris Redman, and Casey Redman. She had 26 grandchildren, and 28 great grandchildren.

Bobby Gene Potts

Bobby Gene Potts, of Dallas, passed away Feb. 20, 2017.

A Chickasaw citizen, he was four months shy of his 78th birthday. He was born in his grandparents' house located in Durant, Okla., on June 9 1939. He was the grandson of original enrollee Benjamin Alexander Potts and great-great-grandson of Chickasaw Rhoda Gunn Potts.

He was a neon sign man who loved nature, sports, fishing, bowling, playing cards, golf and was proud of his native heritage.

Though pretty reserved most of the time, he had a quick sense of humor and enjoyed a good laugh. His most important contribution was that of a loving husband and father. He loved his family very much.

He is survived by Charles Potts his father's brother; an older brother, Larry; a younger sister, Doris; four children, Robin, Stephen, Susan and John; five grandchildren, Laurin, Christin, Justina, Kyle and Travis. He also got to see his great-grand baby named Gibson before passing.

We will miss you always Dad.

Nioma Ludean Yott

Nioma Ludean Yott, or Lu as everyone knew her, went to be with her lifetime friend Jesus Christ Feb. 13 2017. She leaves behind the love of her life George Yott, to whom she was married for 60 years.

They met in McAlester Okla., while he was stationed at the McAlester Navy Base. When he received orders to leave she agreed to go with him as long as he promised to bring her home eventually, and he did. Their adventures in the U.S. Navy crisscrossed them across the nation and they weathered being separated for 7 Mediterranean cruises during a total of 22 years of Navy life.

Her life changed forever when Freda Mullins introduced her to Jesus and she began her walk with him. George brought Lu home and together they raised their three children, Ken, Tracy and Julie. She taught religious education and worked with the youth of both Holy Rosary in Hartshorne, Okla., and St. John's in McAlester. She was one of the founding members of the Oklahoma Cursillo movement, sharing her love for Jesus with women from all over the state.

She worked for Farmer's Home Administration for five years. After her time there she worked for Phoenix Federal. She loved to travel and spent her retirement years planning and sharing in wonderful trips with her family and friends.

She was proud of her Chickasaw heritage and loved Native American art.

She is survived by her husband George Yott; a brother, Milton Hogan, of Tulsa; a sister, Mildred Thompson, of Haywood, Okla.; and a sister-in-law, Barbara Yott, of Fairlawn, Ohio; three children and their spouses, Ken and Cheryl Yott, of McAlester, Ken and Tracy Matthews, of McAlester and Julie and Danny Brennan, of Tulsa. She was loved dearly by 10 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

Deanna Hartley-Kelso presents Kirk Perry with his 15-year service award on behalf of the Chickasaw Foundation.

Chickasaw Foundation Annual Meeting

ADA, Okla. - The Chickasaw Foundation conducted its annual meeting Feb. 2 at Chickasaw Nation headquarters.

Officers elected for 2017 were: Lisa John, chairman; Robyn Elliott, vice-chairman; Holly Easterling, treasurer; Jalinda Kelley, secretary.

The Chickasaw Foundation trustees are Matt Chesnut, Tina Cooper, M.D., John Fryrear, Deanna Hartley-Kelso, Bill Lance, Dr. Judy Goforth-Parker and Kirk Perry.

At the meeting, Mr. Perry was recognized with an award for his 15 years of service to the Chickasaw Foundation.

Chickasaw Foundation donor spotlight

BRIAN D. GABBARD

Brian D. Gabbard, owner of Gabbard and Company, has more than 30 years of professional accounting and consulting experience. He has taught financial management courses and business improvement workshops.

Mr. Gabbard is chairman of the board of directors of Bank2 in Oklahoma City, chartered in 2002 by the Chickasaw Nation. He serves as vice chairman of the Central Oklahoma American Indian Health Council and is a Chickasaw Foundation trustee. He holds a Bachelor's of Accountancy from the University of Oklahoma.

Mr. Gabbard supports the Chickasaw Nation and wants to help carry on the culture and the great progress, particularly the progress he has seen under Governor Bill Anoatubby's leadership.

"I believe in the Foundation's Mission: to promote the general welfare and culture of the Chickasaw people by supporting educational, health, historical and community activities and programs," Mr. Gabbard said. "Growing up, I recall how proud my family was to be Chickasaw and how much it was a part of who they were. I am proud to be a Chickasaw citizen, and the Nation we have today is due to the hard work of those past and present, and the Nation we have tomorrow depends on the work of those today."

Chickasaw Foundation Employee Charitable Contribution Plan Champion

LISA MCKEE

The Chickasaw Foundation is greatly appreciative of employees who elect to donate to the Employee Charitable Contribution Plan (ECCP). This month, we recognize Chickasaw Nation employee Lisa McKee as our ECCP Champion.

Ms. McKee has been contributing to the Chickasaw Foundation through the ECCP since 2014. She believes giving to the Chickasaw Foundation is important in the promotion of education and culture.

Ms. McKee graduated from Murray State College and is a registered nurse at Chickasaw Nation Medical Center emergency department. She has been a nurse for 27 years and has worked for the Chickasaw Nation for the past two and one-half years. She is married and has one son. She enjoys listening to all genres of music, reading and shooting sports.

Chickasaw Foundation announces scholarship, fellowship

The Chickasaw Foundation has announced the opening of the following scholarships and fellowship:

Kenneth Comer Scholarship

This scholarship is for a Chickasaw graduate student majoring in counseling psychology.

To be eligible, the student is required to:

· Maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher

· Be enrolled in an accredited four-year college/university

· Seek certification as a licensed professional counselor or licensed drug and alcohol counselor. Recipient shall also seek certification as a certified problem gambling counselor.

Chickasaw Foundation Career Technology Scholarship

This scholarship requires students to attend a career technology, vocational technology or trade school and maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0. Recipient must be a Chickasaw citizen and a high school graduate student at least 18 years of age.

Lynn C. Gibson Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship requires the student to attend a career technology, vocational technology or trade school and maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0. Recipient must be enrolled in a program leading to a secretarial/administrative assistant certification.

2017 Holisso: The Center for Study of Chickasaw History and Culture Fellowship

This fellowship is for a Chickasaw student or for individuals studying Chickasaw history and culture. It is for a one-week period of research to be conducted at the Holisso Center of the Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur, Oklahoma. The fellowship will provide up to $2,000 in expenses for room, board, hotel, airline tickets, etc., to the winning applicant. To be considered for this fellowship, the applicant must:

· Be pursuing a master's, doctoral or professional degree as a full-time student at an accredited graduate school in the U.S. OR preparing an academic paper, book or presentation on Chickasaw history and/or culture.

· Be able to demonstrate a financial need

· Be a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation or an enrolled citizen of another Native American tribe or Alaska village/corporation

Students who have already received a scholarship from the Chickasaw Foundation for the 2016-2017 academic year are not eligible to apply.

The application and supporting documentation must be delivered or postmarked by March 17, 2017, to be considered for funding.

If you would like to receive an application or need additional information, please contact the Chickasaw Foundation at (580) 421-9030 or visit our website at www.chickasawfoundation.org.

PARTNERSHIP | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

social connection and academic support.

In its first year of operation, the center completed 850 student visits. A weekly student newsletter keeps scholars informed of events, opportunities and resources for Native American students.

Setting precedents at the University of Oklahoma

The University of Oklahoma College of Law chose Dr. Lindsay Robertson as its first Native American Law Chair. This is the first position of its kind at any law school in the nation.

Dr. Robertson, a professor and respected law scholar, has spent 18 years of his career building a comprehensive Indian law curriculum at OU, positioning OU College of Law as a global leader in indigenous law education with three Native American law programs and international internship opportunities.

The Chickasaw Nation Native American Law Chair was made possible through an endowment from the Chickasaw Nation and collaboration with the University of Oklahoma. The endowment allowed OU to attract and retain Dr. Robertson as a permanent faculty member. Dr. Roberson has served as a justice on the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribe Supreme Court and as an elected member of the American Law Institute.

Another partnership with OU was recently announced through collaboration with Chickasaw citizen, Dr. Amanda Cobb-Greetham. Dr. Cobb-Greetham, Chair of Native American Studies at OU, has led an initiative to create the Native Nations Center on the OU campus. The Native Nations Center will be a hub for Native American research and scholarship. It will provide resources for students including grants and research opportunities for OU students and faculty.

These partnerships between the Chickasaw Nation and Oklahoma institutions of higher learning are consistent with the tribe's legacy of commitment to education. Starting with early childhood development years, Chickasaw Nation leaders have mapped a plan to make high quality educational opportunities available to Chickasaw citizens.

Visit www.chickasaw.net to read more about the many educational opportunities available through the Chickasaw Nation.

CONTRIBUTED BY Jennifer Jones, Public Affairs.

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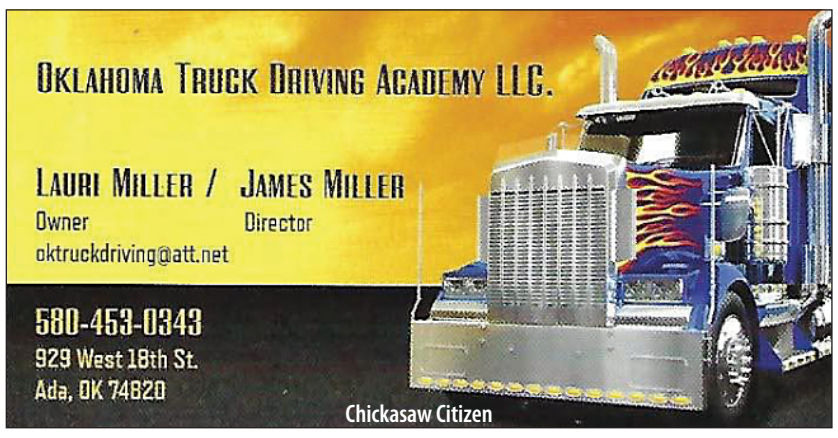

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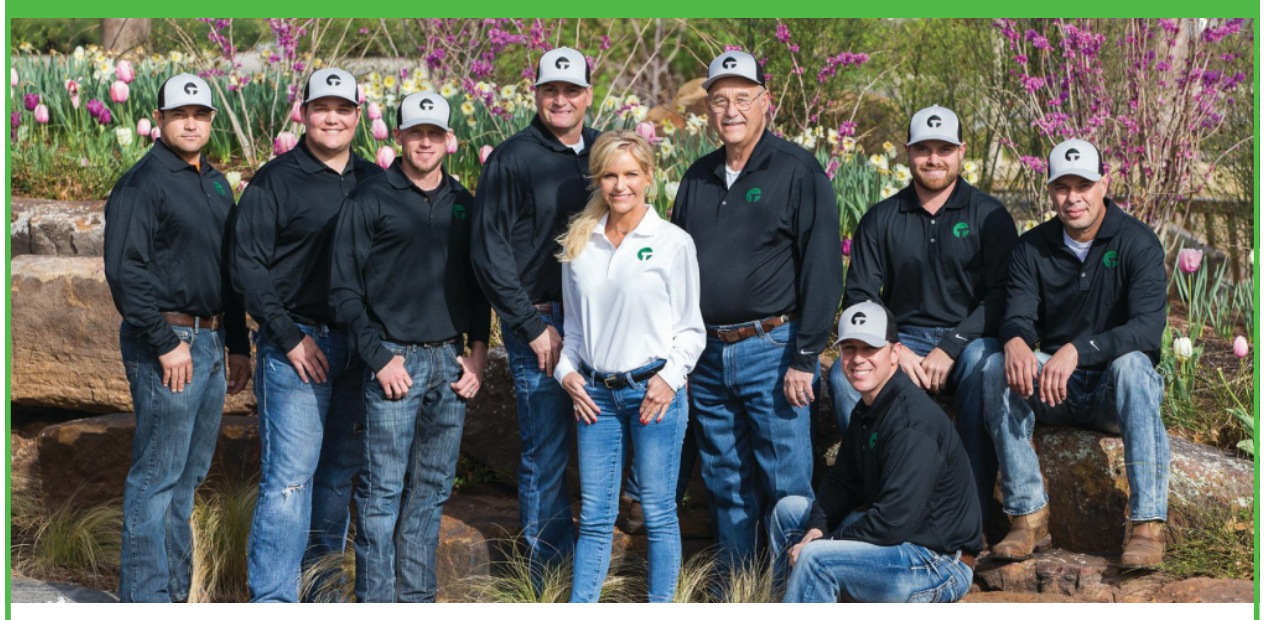
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